

KSTP-TV-35W BRIDGE COLLAPSE -6:59 A.M -11:59 A.M (8-2-2007)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0> (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0>)

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From Thursday, August 2nd, 2007 KSTP-TV (ABC) Live coverage of the I-35W Bridge collapse over the Mississippi river in Minneapolis, MN

- The Collapse occurred at 6:05 P.M, injuring 145 people and killing 13.
- Coverage runs from 6:59 A.M - 11:59 A.M

[00:00:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0)

take it will my loved one be permanently injured and this is way too early to uh find out some of those people who are more critically injured probably spent some time in the operating room when they're in the icu they'll be heavily sedated they'll be getting pain meds uh probably they'll be on a breathing machine so um it's gonna be difficult those families are gonna have a long day ahead of them waiting to see how their loved ones do thank you so much dr boron for giving us your perspective on this kind of behind the scenes we appreciate it all right let's check back in with rusty we're still kind of monitoring this drive and we'll continue to all morning you're wondering are people delaying going to work maybe could be later on this morning yeah which if you can obviously that'll really help the situation in minneapolis with that bridge 35w collapsed we have a crash right now eastbound 94 in minneapolis here's the view from portland several emergency vehicles on the scene left lanes are blocked you can see a bit of the back up there the top of your screen will give you another and there's the view from 94 and nicollette jammed up slow and go stop and go with that fender bender crash so as far as the bridge collapse and how it's affecting the drive there's that view again that very eerie view of the collapsed bridge location 35 w in washington you'll be rerouted onto 280 basically as the official detour and right now that's in pretty good shape here's the view from 94 and 280 we have the view from 35 w just south of minneapolis the view from 26th in fact midway skycam we've been keeping an eye on 280 and that is that bridge there that is highway 280 now basically converted into that freeway because they will have the stop and go lights lit up green for north south travel traffic pulse showing what's going on right now there's that crash that we were showing you in minneapolis there is the entire metro pretty typical actually for a morning's rush hour

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actually for a morning's rush hour and there are some of the travel times the slowest right now is eastbound 94 with that crash from 394 to 280 takes you just about just more than a half hour 32 minutes speeds are only 11 miles per hour but 35w northbound from the crosstown to minneapolis this surprises me i thought this would be very slow this morning but it is moving at 54 miles per hour takes you just six minutes to travel from the crosstown to downtown minneapolis that leads you to believe that there's not as many folks heading into minneapolis right now on northbound 35w 94 westbound between saint paul and minneapolis takes about 19 minutes moving at about 27 miles per hour that's pretty typical rush hour slow downs for this time of the morning so yeah people appear to be finding another way into minneapolis or they are just frankly avoiding minneapolis which if you can do that obviously that will help the traffic flow this morning we'll keep an eye on this continue to monitor we'll update that crash for you as well bonita okay thank you russia just a quick bit of

breaking news before we go to weather amelia huffman with the minneapolis police department has now changed the fatality level confirmed fatalities are four instead of the seven confirmed by the associated press that we had been saying star tribune was saying nine amelia huffman with minneapolis police is saying four again everything is still sketchy but we want to give you this latest information that's coming from minneapolis police let's send it over to patrick with a look at what searchers are going to see as far as the forecast humidity levels the heat venita we were of course tracking some storms approaching the collapse site yesterday we will not have that situation today temperatures will be lower humidity levels will be lower temperatures have fallen some five to six degrees in just the last few hours 67 right now in minneapolis 55 in princeton 68 degrees in cottage grove statewide you can notice the cooler temperatures moving in from canada behind the cold front that did bring some fairly hefty rain totals yesterday

[00:04:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=241s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=241s)

some fairly hefty rain totals yesterday to the north metro that rain has now pushed on out of here the weather pattern today will be a more mild one with highs in the 80s a northwest breeze replacing the southerly wind we've seen the last few days a nice day tomorrow but take a look at this a wetter weather pattern likely developing for saturday late friday into saturday we're going to likely see some rain around here scattered showers and storms primarily across the southern half of the state a few showers could linger into sunday and then the potential of a more widespread rain on monday we'll watch that very closely high temperatures today with lots of sunshine into the mid to upper 80s in a few spots but generally into the mid 80s the forecast looks like this for today we're going to see again lots of sun 87 a northwest breeze five to 15 miles an hour ushering in some cooler air for tonight 64 degrees here's a look at that seven-day forecast temperatures really staying in the 80s the next seven days there's the rain for saturday potentially an isolated storm on sunday a better chance of showers and storms on monday bonita thank you patrick good morning everyone it is just after seven o'clock on thursday august 2nd i'm vanita sakkar our bridge collapse coverage continues this hour as it is as it has since it happened at 605 last night now again i just reported we've just learned the official death toll has been lowered to four this is coming from the minneapolis police we are expecting two news conferences one from city hall and another from hennepin county medical center we will bring them to you live when it happens we're following more news on the ground and in the air tom hauser is live at the scene with the newest overnight details tom this change in fatality numbers it's it's good news but what happened there do you have any information on that well it's unfortunately only temporary good news they've lowered the official confirmed number of dead from seven down to four that doesn't mean that's where it's going to stay you got to remember there are at least 20 people still presumed missing who are unaccounted for

[00:06:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=360s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=360s)

presumed missing who are unaccounted for by family and friends and so we do actually expect the death toll to increase even though it has temporarily gone down so we're not quite certain for the reason for this change but we will try to find out as best we can let's go up to chopper 5 and just look down again at the bridge site again it's still very eerie there's not a lot going on down there right now they are still formulating plans for how uh to attack this search and recovery mission it's a very difficult thing in minnesota we don't have search and recovery missions like this very often it's something you see more often in california after an earthquake where you have a bridge that pancakes like this so and again to have it happen over water makes it even that much more difficult so it's going to be a long difficult day as they get in there and determine whether it's safe to go in and try to recover these people who are presumed missing now one other piece of information i want to pass along governor pawlenty is here and we hope to be talking to him within the next 10 minutes he right now is awaiting a phone call from president bush president bush we understand is going to talk about this at a news conference of his own at around nine o'clock but he's going to be talking to governor pawlenty first and we expect that phone call to happen here and then we hope to talk to the governor right after he has that phone conversation with president bush joining me right now back here on the ground jennifer griswold and you know we we talk about this death toll going up and down and there's a lot of bad news we think yet to come out of this but there's also some good news last night people

saw that school bus and they were fearing the worst but it's not so bad that's the thing tom when people saw that video saw that school bus literally looking like it was going into a gaping hole people assumed the worst there were about 60 children on that bus but we are told nearby motorists were able to save those children out of that wreckage some of the children were handed off to first responders survivors climbed up the slope bridge deck to escape paramedics rushed about a dozen of the kids to area hospitals

[00:08:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=481s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=481s)

kids to area hospitals terrified teens as you can imagine called their parents on cell phones an adult chaperone who was on the bus said the kids are part of a youth group from white house community center i don't remember anything until on the sidewalk i was laying next to my boss and she couldn't feel their legs you guys were on a school bus we were we were on it's a youth program we were on our way back from a field trip and it's difficult for adults to realize what's going on to see the structure damaged and to know that this bridge has collapsed now imagine what it was like for those teams but luckily we can report that all those teens those 60 people on the bus are ok there will be some news conferences coming up this morning 7 15 we're expected to hear from minnesota state patrol as well as the police people from the governor's office the mayor's office hopefully at that time maybe we'll get a little more information about that death toll number again it was at seven now at four as you mentioned though 20 people are still assumed missing at this time so it's hard in these disasters these death tolls always fluctuate the numbers you hear at first almost never seem to be right it takes a long time to really determine exactly what happened in the extent of this tragedy we know what physically has happened to this bridge it's the death toll now and trying to account for the missing that is going to be the difficult thing going on today again as i mentioned governor pelleni we believe now has stepped into his vehicle down the street here awaiting a call from president bush to talk about this i'm sure the president will offer whatever federal assistance is available and of course the u.s secretary of transportation a member of the bush cabinet will also be here accompanied by senator norm coleman and senator amy klobuchar we believe congressman keith ellison as well he represents this district so a lot of things can be going on here this morning and i know people are a little frustrated there's not a lot of action down at that bridge right now but they want to make sure they have a good plan of attack before they go in there

[00:10:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=600s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=600s)

plan of attack before they go in there they don't want anybody else to be injured or worse when they go into that very dangerous situation by that bridge is still very precarious bonita huge task they face thank you tom many of you have called or emailed us asking how to help you want to donate blood well we have some information for you the memorial blood center says you should call 1-888-give b-l-d between nine this morning a couple hours from now nine this morning and nine tonight you can either make a blood donation or a financial one which of course will be appreciated you can also make a financial donation to the red cross they will need that money in the weeks and months to come one eight hundred give life one hundred thousand cars use that thirty five w bridge every day and now those people are wondering how do i get to and from work this morning rusty is here with a look at the traffic situation and so far we haven't seen too much of a gridlock rusty yeah it's amazing frankly of course this bridge under construction so they've been shutting it down now and then through the weekend or overnight but boy dealing with a major interstate shutdown for morning rush hour afternoon rush hour for weeks and months to come well that's what we're gonna have to deal with we do have a crash right now in minneapolis it is 94 eastbound here's a live shot from portland and as the camera pans we have several vehicles tow truck patrol officers and that left lane is blocked eastbound 94 into minneapolis so this is uh the view from lindale stop and go traffic there the view from nicollette you can see it's jammed up as you head into the sunshine let's go right to the scene this is a live shot very eerie 35w what was the bridge across the mississippi there you can see how it just drops off and that's the 10th avenue bridge that is closed only open to official vehicles 35 w shut down between highway 36 and 94. 280 is going to be the main alternate route you'd see here that this is southbound 35 w that's the road to 280.

[00:12:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=720s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=720s)

w that's the road to 280. now i'm being told these folks right here that just went through those cones i'm being told that that's illegal they are not supposed to be doing that i heard this was going on i think we just saw a couple of folks kind of cut right through the barricade there trying to get themselves over to highway 36 evidently but that is illegal please obviously don't be out there creating more problems than we already have that is the view from southbound 35 w and county road c here's the view from 88. here's the view from 35w and county road e2 actually not bad 94 and 280 you can see the flow there here's 94 the view from riverside the bridge there as you cross over and there's the back about of st paul not too unusual for this time of the morning here's the view just south of downtown minneapolis the view from 35w 26th and honestly this has been moving along very nicely this morning heading into downtown minneapolis traffic polls can give you a better idea of the flow around town there's that crash 94 eastbound here's the entire metro the red showing you those the delays here's some of the slowdowns check that out 35w northbound from the crosstown to downtown minneapolis takes you just six minutes this morning and you're moving at 54 miles per hour i thought this would be much slower very jammed up but it's not 94 westbound from st paul to minneapolis takes about 21 minutes average speed 24 miles per hour that's pretty typical and then with that crash we've been showing you 94 eastbound from 394 to 280 you can see very slow there only 57 miles per hour but again we're dealing with a crash that's taken out two lanes of traffic so that can be expected and really not related to the 35w bridge collapse average speed there pretty much stop and go just six miles per hour so yeah if you can avoid traveling into downtown minneapolis this morning will be the time to avoid traveling into downtown minneapolis and

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traveling into downtown minneapolis and venita it seems a lot of people have decided to do just that avoid the whole area you wonder how this will change in the days to come though exactly okay monitoring it thanks a lot rusty with 35w north of 94 closed of course metro transit is offering additional bus routes there will be an extra 25 buses in service between six and nine this morning right now in fact until nine o'clock from the following park and ride locations foley boulevard and [___] rapids maplewood mall north town shopping center in blaine 63rd avenue county road 81 in brooklyn center rosedale shopping center roseville city hall and the grace lutheran church if you couldn't get all that for more details go to kstp.com we have it all laid out for you susannah song is now live at the triage center which is in the holiday inn near the metro dome susana you were mentioning this morning it was going to open up at eight o'clock did it open up early or are they waiting to open till 8. well vanita we left there about an hour ago and actually we're here at hennepin county medical center now it's estimated about 60 people were injured in the bridge collapse the most serious ones were brought here again to hennepin county medical center in about 15 minutes we will be going through a news conference someone from the house will be out explaining the details explaining the conditions of the victims that were brought here how many victims were actually involved in yesterday's collapse now again there are missing people a lot of family members have been juggling back and forth between hcmc and the holiday inn triage center to look for their loved ones again we were there about an hour ago red cross volunteers saw at least 80 people walked through the doors begging for consolation answers and prayer pastors and counselors were also on hand to listen and help out more than 100 calls have flooded the phones as well the center is closed right now but we'll be back open at 8 this morning so if you want to report a missing loved one it is the best place to go let me tell you grief has settled in the hearts of many they fear their loved ones are dead one person describes it as a time of sorrow

[00:16:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=960s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=960s)

person describes it as a time of sorrow overwhelmed with not knowing kirk and christopher i want i want to see my brother and my son wants to see his uncle because he's seen all of this happen well you just we put those awake at this time i mean there's not a whole lot you can say there's nothing really that you mostly you just listen to obviously on a day like today people are not asking deep theological questions they're asking more why me and that question even tough to answer for the chaplain you just heard from again there will be

a news conference in about 15 minutes with an update on the condition of the victims exactly how many victims were involved and we will bring that to you live shortly reporting live in minneapolis susannah song 5 eyewitness news and susannah hopefully that'll answer some questions so many questions we have this morning tom houser is at the scene of the collapse and the questions about fatalities it has been lowered to four but we imagine it will increase throughout the day tom yeah we've been classifying that as temporary good news uh vanita it's very quiet here still at the scene there's obviously a lot of media activity but in terms of actual work going on at the bridge site really not much at all other than just keeping an eye on it and we expect that to change here as the morning progresses but it's only been a little over 12 hours since this tragedy happened so they're still trying to get their arms around exactly what did happen and even though it's eerily calm now it was anything but calm about 13 hours ago [Music] the disaster scene was so disjointed even eyewitnesses didn't seem to believe what they saw the bridge collapsed cars in the water there's a semi on fire there's a school bus on the bridge i don't know if it was filled with it it's a mess just like an hour ago this whole place was like completely normal [Music] it went from normal to hellish in 60

[00:18:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=1081s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=1081s)

it went from normal to hellish in 60 seconds we don't yet know how many were killed but the stories of survival are stunning like the driver of this red car who had a pickup truck land on top of her just kind of that feeling that free fall feeling it felt like we did that twice just stomped on the brake and held my steering wheel and then heard loud smash and saw my back window break and there's a mother and son who survived a 50-foot plunge in their car the next thing i saw was the road kind of wave like in a wave and we were just i just we were going head down i just was hoping that i wouldn't get hurt when we hit because we were like going straight down the joy over those amazing survival stories is tempered by the anguish over those who didn't beat the odds in a disaster no one saw coming [Music] and again this isn't like a tornado or a hurricane where you can forecast that something's coming this one nobody saw it coming there were people crossing that bridge like they do every day going about their business like they do every day many of those people we presume on their way to the twins game last night when this tragedy happened and it was something again no one could see coming that's why it is so difficult now to get a handle on what to do next in terms of the recovery operation we have several crews here on the scene bonita keeping an eye on that we're also awaiting governor pawlenty we should be talking to him any moment now and we understand he has not heard from the president yet but we do expect that to happen yet this morning so we'll check back in with you as soon as the governor is available vanita back we will send it back to you as soon as you get that information tens of thousands of people are going to need a different way to get to work this morning and rusty i wonder if they just heeded the warning because we're not seeing a huge traffic jam anywhere yeah maybe if they had a couple of vacation days they could use they're just staying home today which is good if you can do that avoid having to travel into minneapolis chatting with the folks over at mndot

[00:20:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=1200s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=1200s)

chatting with the folks over at mndot and even they are surprised like we are that the traffic flow relatively light considering what we're dealing with let's uh go to minneapolis we are dealing right now with a fender bender crash eastbound 94 portland and just bottom of your screen barely make out there's a vehicle there and the patrol officer looks like they're slowly reopening lanes they had two lanes shut down because of this crash and as you can imagine traffic is backed up 94 eastbound as you make your way out of the tunnel heading toward hiawatha and portland there there it is that shot from 35 w in washington what used to be the bridge across the mississippi the 10th avenue bridge is shut down official vehicles using that only but check it out here's the 35w view from 280 280 being one of the official detours that most folks will be using and the 35 w county road c uh there's where they're funneling you down to 280 there southbound jamming up as they approach that zone by the way we were seeing folks cutting through the barrels there in that construction zone trying to save some time that is definitely illegal you will get a ticket word is there going to be sending a patrol officer there and you'll be fined if you cut through those barrels there's the view from 35w county road e2 so there you see it's a pretty decent flow here's the view from 94 in 280 and midway skycam actually we have it aimed at 280. the the detour that has been kind of changed to become a freeway the stop and go

lights are going to be lit up green access to Broadway and County Road B not going to be available you won't be able to go 280 on to Broadway or counter would be because they want that flow to keep moving north and southbound there at 280. Traffic Pulse can show us the flow around town pretty typical in the Minneapolis area for this time of the morning the jam up there due mainly eastbound 94 because of that crash which is clearing

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because of that crash which is clearing out but check out the travel time from 35 W the Crosstown into downtown Minneapolis you're moving at 53 miles per hour takes you just six minutes the jam up out of St. Paul 94 westbound not too unusual for this time of the morning from 35E to downtown 35 W takes you 22 minutes and at its speed at 23 miles per hour and then 94 eastbound that jam up starting to approve now the delay 41 minutes at one time we were close to an hour and the speeds are pretty much slow and go but with those lanes reopening even that stretch of 94 eastbound should start to move along again so yeah Bonita appears that some folks are either just avoiding downtown Minneapolis or decided to take a vacation day and stay home and hopefully uh watching us here for the latest information Bonita Rusty though in the weeks and months to come this is going to be something we're going to be talking about for quite a while ways to get around this yeah I think the delays are on the horizon as as more and more people start to figure out how the heck am I going to get through Minneapolis we'll probably start to see more crowds Friday and Monday and the days and weeks ahead okay thank you Rusty we've been checking state and federal records to learn more about this bridge and we've learned it has a lot of history it was built in 1967 it's 1900 feet long and is 64 feet above the Mississippi it was designed to span the river without any supports in the river the goal was to avoid having those big cement piers in the water which would get in the way of river traffic that means the bridge spans 458 feet between supports now we spoke with the Minnesota Transportation Commissioner who served under Governor Rudy Perpich he told us something pretty alarming that between 40 and 50 percent of the 20 thousand bridges in Minnesota are deficient in some way but the number itself is alarming because it's a very high number and so when you look at the overall statewide bridge system it calls for enhanced inspection and improvements now whether that means that people should be afraid to go over bridges no they're not I mean I will continue to drive over bridges as

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I will continue to drive over bridges as you will but we need an aggressive program to rebuild the infrastructure soon after the collapse crews moved back in to help with the massive response crews worked with law enforcement to seal off the end of the bridge those barricades will likely remain in place for quite some time we also saw rescue boats and crews heading to the scene from all angles and as the crews worked hundreds stood on overpasses and nearby roads watching as the disaster and the response unfolded we were sitting in our unit just hanging out in the office and it sounded like a jet was going to hit our building or something and then we looked around and we came out my niece and nephew were like oh my god look at all the smoke I don't think it could happen here you know let's send it over to Tom Hauser right now who's with Governor Pawlenty Tom yeah Vanita Governor Poloni and Mayor Ulf Ryback who we talked to earlier both kind of at the center of the storm here trying to figure out what the state and the city and can do in connection with the federal authorities I understand you're waiting to talk to President Bush what kind of federal help do you expect from him well Tom we've received offers of help from the federal government and I'm sure that will take the form of cash assistance or equipment or personnel we've had federal officials already on site and more coming but immediately we just want everybody to know across the country and across Minnesota our thoughts and prayers are first and foremost with the families who've lost a loved one who somebody who's been injured we want them to know we're thinking of them and praying for them we're also very proud of the first responders and the bystanders and the good Samaritans who helped out in immediate minutes and hours after this event it was an amazing response how did this impact you I'm certain it impacted you on a human level before a government official level and what was going through your mind when you saw the first pictures of this tragedy it just took my breath away Tom I was in Saint Paul a few

blocks from the governor's residence and was notified via state trooper of what happened and then we obviously started to see the television pictures and then came over to the site pretty promptly after that and it just takes your breath away

[00:26:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=1560s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=1560s)

takes your breath away it's an awful horrific tragedy of historic proportions and not just the cement and the concrete and the steel but to think about the human life and hurt and pain that's underneath or was underneath that it just is staggering from your briefings with public safety officials do you know yet do they have a handle on the number of missing we keep hearing 20 mayor reibeck said it's 20 what are you hearing well we don't know for sure the best estimates that we're getting is some originally was 20 to 50. now we're hearing more reports that it might be closer to 20. we don't know for sure it's probably at least 20 it could be somewhat higher than that time they've also lowered the the confirmed death toll from seven down to four were you aware of that and if so do you know why they've done that i was just informed of that but i was somewhat perplexed because last night they had certified or i should say confirmed seven fatalities and i can't explain why it would be reduced overnight from your understanding what happens next it's been very quiet there on the scene i realize it's only been 13 hours since this happened is it just as you said a tragedy of historic proportions it's going to be a recovery and search effort of historic proportions is that why it's taken a while to get back in there tom what's happening now is of course last night when it was dark with high currents a lot of debris in the water they did what they could last night right now in terms of recovery they need the heavy equipment to come in and move concrete and steel and that'll be helpful but they want to get to everybody they can first in terms of rescue and recovery efforts of the human loss they want to leave the site as you know as it is for a while so the ntsb can come in and do the investigation and their review starting this morning obviously are already underway or will be shortly and then of course there's going to be debris removal it's going to require heavy equipment from the army corps and others and then we need to get about the business of rebuilding this bridge but in the meantime for quite a many months we're going to have lots of disruption and traffic and economic disruption as well and i know it's i know it's early but have mndot officials giving you a timeline i mean

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officials giving you a timeline i mean how long does it take to clear the debris design a bridge and build it we don't know that yet but we know from past experiences around the country you just don't build a bridge like this overnight in terms of debris removal and rebuilding a bridge best case a year and probably longer all right and you are expecting a call from president bush here anytime now i am tom this morning and of course you know we had this bridge inspected in 2005 and 2006 and while there were some deficiencies noted they did not call for closing or replacing the bridge immediately so this this is a situation where had the engineers done that obviously the bridge would have been closed but that's not the case this designation that this bridge has is shared by 80 000 other bridges in in the country and some bridges even have a worse designation but these deficiencies did not equate to a rise to the level of closing the bridge or repairing it or replacing it immediately in the eyes of the experts who looked at it in the inspections all right governor plenty i appreciate your time i know you're a busy man thank you for taking the time with us today i'm sure those inspection records are going to be reviewed thoroughly to try to find out obviously it's a human endeavor so it's going to be imperfect but there's going to be a very thorough review of why this bridge collapsed despite the fact it passed an inspection just a year ago vanita and tom it's time for us to go now live to city hall where a news conference is going on live to update us on the situation this is police chief tim building i guess i'm not going well and especially if you had to pay for it i think yes yeah so so that's we have investigators working on all that uh you'll probably get a better number on that later on so yeah let's mention your symmetry is going for the families of the people who are still waiting and don't have answers about their loved ones how many people are in that situation how many families are there um we we had at least six families that were at the center we've got a number of other people that are calling and so we're dealing with those and we can get you uh give you a number that we we want those calls to go to i don't have that offhand but our media

[00:30:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=1802s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=1802s)

i don't have that offhand but our media people do are we still talking you know we i never went to seven and i saw at this time i wouldn't even go there i would say um you know we'll get that from the coroner's office and they are on scene now and obviously that's going to change throughout the day as we're doing this recovery i would guess and it's any sense of how difficult it is what conditions they face um sheriff can talk to that since those are his people are there still 20 missing is that confirmed at all um what what we we are estimating anywhere from 20 to 30 people that could be unaccounted before but that's an estimate based on a number of vehicles that we're estimating were on the bridge so it's there's a lot of estimates we're going to break away from this news conference we obviously caught it near the tail end of it we're going to take you over to hennepin county medical center where another news conference is set to begin to update us on the situation with the injury go ahead we just ask that you guys step in yep doctor what's the latest as far as fatalities injuries um doug why don't you give them an update on that uh we had 24 patients taken to hennepin county medical center last night of those we had six critical one of those unfortunately passed away the other five critical are still in the hospital and undergoing diagnostic and therapeutic interventions we had 10 that are still here in satisfactory condition and we had eight patients that were seen treated and released home what is the death total total fatalities total fatality that we have is one at hennepin county medical center that was primarily thoracic and blunt trauma forces

[00:32:03 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=1923s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=1923s)

thoracic and blunt trauma forces i do not have an updated number that is at north memorial or the other hospitals the five critical the nature of the injuries the injuries were all pretty much consistent with blunt force trauma so there were a number of head injuries a number of chest and abdomen injuries we had some facial injuries as well but pretty much consistent with what you would expect from an accident like this can you tell me more about the age group any children are these adults we had i believe five uh five children defined under the age of 18 and the rest were adults are these children uh you know i don't know the answer to that do you the children right now are all in stable condition the critical cases primarily are confined to the adults and north memorial took four or five pediatric patients and i don't know the status of their medical condition right now we have been and um john hick who's behind us was at the scene as well as uh another one of our medical directors uh dr jeff ho and then north memorial had one or two medical directors there this was really a team effort as an any disaster and it was between all the major trauma centers here in minneapolis as well as uh level two trauma centers can we ask class dr nick the question sure uh as what you found on the scene obviously there were various different

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there were various different types of collapse you know straight into the water halfway down can you can you kind of qualify the injuries where did most of the serious injuries happen was it the span that fell into the water was it the one that collapsed on land is there any way most most of the critical injuries that we had were on the span the collapse into the river and the portion of the span on the north side of the river those were mainly the focus of our initial rescue efforts on the on the south side of the river most of the patients had either minor injuries or were able to evacuate themselves from the span so it was really this man that was in the water and the north side of the collapse where we concentrated our rescue efforts i want to say that that the bystanders and minneapolis police and minneapolis fire did an exceptional job of helping us quickly quickly get people off of the bridge get out of their vehicles get off of the span and seek medical care we had outstanding cooperation from the patients themselves understanding that we had some very critical patients to to deal with and not trying to you know make sure that they got care first it was a very selfless environment down there i think the fact that that we had as many injuries as we did we had 55 patients transported by ambulance the call came into our dispatch center at seven minutes after six last night and all the patients were transported to hospitals within an hour and 53 minutes which i think speaks to the the number of services involved with this as well as the teamwork on the part of the the paramedics and and the other emergency medical services and public safety folks that responded 55 transported to your hospital only

to go to all no that's to all hospitals we received 24 patients here at hennepin county medical center the rest were distributed to north memorial and other medical centers hurt the fatality the person who died do you know any of the circumstances regarding that where how what happened the the person who died here at hennepin county medical center was one of the first patients that was evacuated off

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first patients that was evacuated off the north side of the collapse he had very very significant chest and other injuries you know consistent with a fall of 64 feet in a vehicle he was gravely injured at the scene he was uh rushed immediately to one of the first ambulances in and was brought to the trauma center as quickly as possible uh unfortunately that alone was was not enough to save his life messages went out to all the hospitals via a web-based system that we used and that asked the hospitals to you know tally all of their patients that resulted from this incident and submit basically information about what patients they had all that information was compiled was supplied to the red cross as being used by the hospitals today to determine you know where patients are and how they're doing we're really not concerned honestly with the specifics of the injuries most of the injuries are pretty consistent they're you know orthopedic injuries their spinal injuries uh their chest and head injuries more it's a matter of figuring out who is where so the families can be reunited if there's any questions still about where their family members are is there still a question are there still some patients who haven't been identified to to my knowledge the patients at our institution are identified i can't speak for other institutions i'm also wondering clearly as doctors and this hospital particularly you all train for situations like this but if you can talk personally being down the scene or even treating them as they arrived the emotions that i'll just speak for on the scene and then i'll i'll defer to my colleagues to speak for in the hospital but um i arrived initially about seven minutes after the initial call went out on the south side where the fire involved the tractor trailer truck and the school bus was right behind and you know i think your initial impression is uh would somebody just say cut here and is this a movie um and you know unfortunately it was not and we had to to really

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it was not and we had to to really rapidly set up triage and treatment points but your training just kicks in and you do what you need to do and i think very quickly a lot of organization was brought to a very chaotic situation because we have practice for things like this we've done a lot of work on disaster preparedness in the area and that showed but personally honestly there wasn't a whole lot to think about any feelings last night until about one o'clock in the morning so when it hit you at one o'clock um i had to watch a little tv last night um in order to get to sleep but you know again this is the kind of thing we see every day not in this scale and not with the kind of visuals of the structural collapse that we had but this is the kind of thing that we're trying to deal with sorry could i have them comment on the last question which was how they reacted here at the hospital uh i'll just tell you my situation i was on in the main part of the emergency department and we first had to kind of determine what is really going on and what is the extent because when you call a disaster you're calling a lot of resources you're calling all the not only emergency physicians but all the nurses all the surgeons everyone in and it's a it's a significant call and that was the first thing the the hard part was trying to figure out how extensive is this disaster number two when it happened and we got quick reports and i think we are extraordinary luckily lucky that we've done this training a lot and dr hick has been very involved in this so when we were ready to pull the trigger and call it what we call an orange disaster it was very smooth page went out we have a system a very methodical system at that point personally for me it was about doing my job that i'm trained for this hospital has done an exceptional job this is what we are and what we're for is to be ready for this kind of

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is to be ready for this kind of situation then that was a matter of actually stepping aside making sure we had the resources for the critical cases dr burnett a number of people came in we're managing those critical cases so i'll let him talk about that then we had to actually the part of it is coordinating the response are we

going to hit capacity we cleared out 25 icu beds in a matter of 30 minutes boom we moved all the people out from the uh emergency department that were not necessarily had to be there or we moved into a distant different area and we cleared close to 25 rooms immediately on that and then it was the hard work of managing this personally what you do after that is uh one there's there is pride i guess in working for an institution working with individuals that do such an extraordinary job then you go home i can only tell you what i did i kissed my kids and i kissed my wife and i said it was a long day um well first off there are literally hundreds of people who responded to this event not only at our institution but across the entire twin cities area and we're not for each and every one of those individuals this could be a whole lot worse than it is and obviously it's it's bad but it could have been a lot worse so from a personal standpoint as bill said this is what we're trained to do we train a lot hoping that we never have to use it and unfortunately yesterday we we did when you're doing it you don't stop to think emotionally you just put your head down and do what needs to be done in the best interests of patients and their families and um you just go from there of the patients who are able to talk

[00:42:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=2520s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=2520s)

who are able to talk can you tell us what they're saying to the nurses what's their emotional state uh to be honest um the patients that i was involved in were not not in any condition to talk so i can't speak from the walking wounded so to speak i don't know if you talk to anybody a little bit about just um we had you know so the way this works is that the all the critical patients are shunted and that's a call that is uh paul at um at the paramedic level and the medical director level as they come in then we have a triage system we substantiate that we think they need to come in for critical care or they can go to our less critical area the people that were in the less critical area that were conscious talking i mean they have what you know they have they were in shock they were happy to be alive they were scared they were worried they felt sad for all the people they had seen and the circumstances as you know better than us was a difficult one there were wires there was a lot of chaos initially but a very organized response and they were in shock they wanted to know where their family members were they wanted their family members here we had a number and i can't tell you how many we had chaplains immediately available we had our administrators we had actually the county board and the hennepin health system board members were all aware so we had a huge response for resources for these people but they were scared and they were in shock were you able to distinguish who actually fell and there were vehicles versus maybe pastors by or people perhaps kayaking in a boat in the river well john john dr hick can give a much better description i can only tell you what we knew is we got an assessment of okay this person was coming in we think they fell the extent

[00:44:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=2642s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=2642s)

coming in we think they fell the extent the 64 feet and it wasn't um when you're trained for this that isn't difficult the person who had obvious head injury that's when we shun them to the critical care area they um the specifics when you get like this are less important than the clinical presentations we're going to have to defer to the recovery operations going on all we can speak for is what's happened here at hcmc because the numbers are very conflicting coming from the scene you you said that you had uh you had compiled uh a master master list with all the all the all the hospitals can you can you give us a composite number like the numbers you gave us for hcmc what's the total of those yeah all i can say is as of last night we had 79 total victims of which 55 were transported by emergency medical services the rest got to hospitals on their own so a total of 79 victims that actually came to hospitals for care i'm sorry how many were how many were admitted in all middle east as a total across the hospitals i do not know how many are still inpatient this morning i don't have that information with me people are out there are you surprised with those numbers do you think that they may be higher no i think you know when when you think about what the scene looked like the fact that we had 80 people injured and in itself is somewhat of a miracle that it's at low but a lot of the a lot of the victims we encountered that were on the bridge fortunately run on portions of the span that didn't have a very long collapse and didn't drop very far and had quite minor injuries if they were injured at all can you just clarify now how many patients are still in your care 24 we had 24 patients taken to

[00:46:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=2762s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=2762s)

24 we had 24 patients taken to uh us and of those eight of those have been treated and released you know we're not at liberty to discuss uh individual cases here five that are critical i mean i know critical is an accepted term would you say that that they are life-threatening uh critical for us means that they have life-threatening injuries correct and you couldn't make any determination at this point whether any or all of them are going to make it uh each of them are individual cases and patients and it would be speculation at this point especially with kohl's head trauma you never know until you few days have passed to see the extent of their brain injury and other injuries so they're critically injured which for us means life-threatening and they may make it and some of them may not you've been listening and watching a news conference from hamilton county medical center doctors briefing reporters on the situation with the injured that were brought to hennepin county medical center just to recap what they said they say 24 patients were brought to hennepin county medical center five are still in critical condition one patient did die there we did learn that five children under 18 are part of that 24. those children are all in stable condition most of the injuries blunt force trauma head and abdomen injuries again the other story of the day is the traffic situation rusty has been following it all morning long and surprisingly we haven't been seeing a lot of backups but we want to keep checking with you rusty just to check out the situation and go over the detours again yeah it's frankly it's amazing with the lack of backups that we are seeing hopefully

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backups that we are seeing hopefully people have found a way to avoid minneapolis maybe just taking a vacation day today first of all let's go live to the scene the view from traffic management center cameras 35 w the view from washington and what was the bridge across the mississippi look at the vehicle still resting there right on the edge of that collapse across the river a handful of other vehicles just still sitting there on that angle of the bridge it's just eerie 35w shutdown between basically highway 36 and 94. that's the view from stinson here's the view of how the cones are out there funneling those folks either onto 280 or now they've scooted some cones over to make it a little easier to access highway 36 if you want to go eastbound and then here's the view from 94 and 280 we're rolling along both directions pretty good drive had a crash earlier at portland now we do have a secondary crash 94 this is the view from nicollette patrol officer on the scene they're tied up against that inside shoulder and traffic is very crowded as you travel eastbound 94 coming out of the tunnel right behind the pillar there is where that patrol officer in that crash is and there's the view from 94 in portland so eastbound 94 is certainly crowded as you cross the river bridge not so bad that's the view from 94 and riverside 94 and 280 our midway sky cam actually looking at 280 this is that detour stretch where they've converted it basically into a freeway they have the stop lights lit up green and you will not have access to Broadway or County Road B because they want to keep north south flowing let's map it out with traffic pulse you'll see the entire metro there's that crash i was showing you at nicollette the red showing where speeds are below 30 miles per hour that crash right in downtown minneapolis or eastbound 94 the entire metro low pretty typical for this hour of the morning for a morning commute we do have some slowdowns including 94 westbound between St Paul and Minneapolis 19 miles per hour you're moving about 20

[00:50:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=3000s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=3000s)

you're moving about 20 it takes about 26 minutes 94 eastbound from 394 to 280 with that crash it takes about 20 minutes speeds are at 17 miles per hour but check that out 35w northbound from the Crosstown to downtown this is a stretch i thought would be stop and go but right now takes you just six minutes and speeds are moving at 53 miles per hour it's kind of of course watching our coverage last night and then channel surfing the cable networks the bridge collapse big story of course headline news here locally absolutely i talked to Australian TV too actually everywhere everywhere they're talking about it Governor Pawlenty talked about how this tragic event is historic for Minnesota and nothing captures it like a newspaper headline just wanted to show you what you'll be seeing on your front porch if you haven't already gotten it this morning this is the Pioneer Press the headline i heard it crack and then subheads collapse questions

terror miracles star tribune basically describing it as well saying buckling and swaying and then down down down we've been hearing from some of these uh survivors and their experience and yeah it just had been an out of body surreal people describing like a movie we're seeing so many of these you know big budget movies but this was no movie no it wasn't and these are the types of newspapers you keep these are the ones you keep show your children someday your grandkids remember when and filled with some incredible photos the whole back spread on the tribune as well another large photo of the collapsed bridge all right and we were seeing those vehicles still on the bridge this morning like it just stood still right overnight 12 hours later all right thanks we're going to keep checking back with you and make sure the situation's okay i'll be here all right well earlier we had shown you a little bit of a news conference with police chief tim dolan also sheriff's officials were also there we got the very tail end of it we want to re-rack that tape we have a tape of it we want you to hear all of it right now all right my name is jim clack i'm the fire chief here in minneapolis we're going to do a short operational briefing this morning

[00:52:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=3120s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=3120s)

this morning we still don't have a lot of details for you but we're going to let you know what we can i'm going to talk first and then law enforcement we've also got representatives here from the d.o.t and other agencies this morning we're moving into a more deliberate mode things will not be happening quickly we're concerned about the structural stability of the bridge still the pieces that remain off the ground and so we're going to be very careful to use the experts to make sure our rescue workers are safe this is not a rescue operation any longer it's a recovery operation which means we move slower and more deliberately we want to make sure and search everywhere the fire department has responsibility for everything above the water and the sheriff's department and other agencies are handling the operations in the river with that i'm going to pass it off to chief dolan from the police department good morning we haven't over overnight from from what we were briefing yesterday not a lot has changed basically we're we're in a hold mode where we've set up a perimeter basically have four sectors different commanders in those sectors we're dealing with not only traffic but pedestrians that are coming down and and we'd like to say we people that are that are coming down please don't get frustrated that we're not going to let you close to the scene and we'd request that people not come down unless they have a real real good reason to come down we talked to officers that were on the scene last night we had a number of officers that responded the initial call we know that there are numerous other vehicles that are in the water and so the recovery involving those vehicles and people who may be in those vehicles is going to take a long time we're planning on staffing this perimeter for three days minimally and it's probably going to be longer as far as

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going to be longer as far as the recovery aspect of of this incident so we do want to again reiterate that we our sympathies go out to families that are involved in this and families that don't have answers it's it's it's like like fire chief clack said this is going to take a long time this recovery we're dealing with mississippi river we're dealing with currents and we're going to have to do it slowly and safely so i would like to say that we've gotten a lot of assistance from from partners down here people that are assisting us from red cross target cup foods others very much appreciate that because we have a lot of people here from metro agencies statewide that have come down to assist you know staffing this perimeter for 24 7 takes takes a lot of people and we're getting assistance from a lot of agencies st paul police department helped us with calls last night so we want to make sure we thank saint paul and we probably get more assistance from them today so so that's about it we'll know more maybe a little bit later but like i said we're in a hold mode we're in a perimeter security perimeter and uh it's uh this is going to take a long time you know i've heard that there's been some controversy on that you know our our public statement last night is we didn't know so and we've had investigators at every hospital go to every hospital we're trying to account for vehicle license numbers people with those vehicles so at this point and i've talked to

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so at this point and i've talked to dr baker from the coroner's office but at this point i think there's still some unknowns people walk people did go to different hospitals in the metro area and obviously we were fighting a little bit of data privacy about who's who and where they're coming from and what their injuries were so so that's we have investigators working on all that uh you'll probably get a better number on that later on so yeah let's mention your symmetry is going for the families of the people who are still waiting and don't have answers about their loved ones how many people are in that situation how many families are there um we we had at least six families that were at the center we've got a number of other people that are calling and so we're dealing with those and we can get you give you a number that we we want those calls to go to i don't have that offhand but our media people do are we still talking from you know we i i never went to seven and i saw at this time i wouldn't even go there i would say you know we'll get that from the coroner's office and they are on scene now and obviously that's going to change throughout the day as we're doing this recovery i would guess and it's changing how difficult it is for the divers what conditions they face um sheriff can talk to that since those are his people are there still 20 missing is that confirmed at all um what what we we are estimating anywhere from 20 to 30 people that could be unaccounted before but that's an estimate based on a number of vehicles that we're estimating were on the bridge so it's there's a lot of estimates expect the death toll to rise i would expect so yes sure all right good morning hennepin county sheriff stanek well as chief clack mentioned you know we're in a recovery mode at this point things this morning as he laid out will

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things this morning as he laid out will move deliberate and slowly as folks were out early this morning at sunrise taking a look at the structure itself the bridge that's still standing parts of it debris in the water making sure that the scene is safe and secure for emergency workers to be able to work around it and get on with the job that they have to do this morning there are a number of vehicles both in the river and on the bridge itself some submerged some you can see sticking out of the water i had the opportunity yesterday both to be down on the river itself and then last night chief dolan myself and others toured the area by air via state patrol helicopter quite quite the scene in terms of what's going to happen this morning again at sunrise department of transportation folks from local state federal have been out with hennepin county sheriff's office deputies taking a look at the structure making sure it's safe and secure when we are assured that it's safe enough for the rescue workers to go back into the scene and continue their recovery operations we will do so sometime later this morning there's a number of the currents are fairly strong they're unpredictable now because of the structure in the water itself we shut down operations around midnight or so last night due to the darkness the current and the the debris in the water itself we've been fortunate to be assisted by a number of agencies as you're looking around you see fire police multiple agencies you have to understand we operate under a unified command system we all have our individual roles but we operate on the unified command system so that we can communicate we have divers here from anoka county other sheriff's offices around the state who will be assisting us we are planning for a three four five day operation at this point whatever it takes to

[01:00:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=3600s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=3600s)

whatever it takes to secure the scene and recover the individuals and find out exactly what happened again that news conference with police and sheriff's officials happened about 15 minutes ago we weren't able to bring it to you all live because we were bringing you governor pawlenty in another news conference at hcmc but we were able to tape it and that was that in its entirety the bridge collapsed just before the timberwolves was set to introduce the new players acquired in the kevin garnett trade team owner glenn taylor's granddaughter was on the bridge when it happened we do know now that she's okay she's in her 20s here's what glenn said to us yesterday well first of all my granddaughter was is part of it so i would be emotional no matter what but this is a family thing so there's just more important things in life than the basketball team and i just thought this is appropriate time let's pray and and care about the families that are have family members or the friends that are involved in this tragedy and that's what i'm going to concentrate on and we can always get together and talk about our fun things in life as sports and we'll do that at a later date life is filled with unexpected events and and we adjust to them and and but in in this sense the

community has to come together and take care of those that are involved in this tragic event in light of the bridge collapse the minnesota twins have postponed this afternoon's game versus kansas city the team was also scheduled to break ground on the new twins ballpark you might recall in downtown minneapolis today well those events have been canceled for today and will be rescheduled at a later date along with today's game this is 5 eyewitness news morning good morning everyone it is just after 8 o'clock on thursday august 2nd i'm anita

[01:02:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=3720s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=3720s)

o'clock on thursday august 2nd i'm anita sakar our bridge collapse coverage continues this hour this morning we've learned the official death toll has been lowered we've been hearing a lot of numbers right now the official death toll is at four but it is expected to rise we have learned north memorial medical center treated nine patients seven have been released two are in serious condition we also heard from doctors at hennepin county medical center 24 patients seen there five in critical condition one died there and five children of those 24 are in stable condition a lot of blunt force trauma injuries head abdomen injuries police chief tim dolan said an estimated 20 to 30 people were still missing thursday morning now we're following more news on the ground and in the air tom houser is live at the scene with the newest overnight details what's going on behind you tom well veneta the it's the search and recovery effort going very slowly here you can see mndot worker back there in some vehicles just on the north edge of the bridge collapse it's hard to see it here because of all the signage behind me but it's just about 150 200 yards behind us is where the bridge collapsed we spoke to governor poleni a while ago about how this bridge was inspected in 2006 so just last year and it was not found to be deficient to the point where it could not be driven on in fact he said there's a lot of bridges that have had worse inspection records than this one which could be cause for concern but the governor isn't sure quite sure what they're going to do about that at this point what he did talk to us about was how this tragedy has impacted him and what is going to happen next at the state and federal level well tom we've received offers of help from the federal government and i'm sure that will take the form of cash assistance or equipment or personnel we've had federal officials already on site and more coming but immediately we just want everybody to know across the country and across minnesota our thoughts and prayers are first and foremost with the families who've lost a loved one who somebody who's been injured we want them to know we're thinking of them and praying for them we're also very proud of the first

[01:04:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=3840s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=3840s)

we're also very proud of the first responders and the bystanders and the good samaritans who helped out in the immediate minutes and hours after this event it was an amazing response how did this impact you i'm certain it impacted you on a human level before a government official level and what was going through your mind when you saw the first pictures of this tragedy it just took my breath away tom i was in saint paul a few blocks from the governor's residence and was notified to be a state trooper of what happened and then we obviously started to see the television pictures and then came over to the site pretty promptly after that and it just takes your breath away it's an awful horrific tragedy of historic proportions and not just the cement and the concrete and the steel but to think about the human life and the hurt and pain that's underneath or was underneath that it just is staggering tom what's happening now is of course last night when it was dark with high currents a lot of debris in the water they did what they could last night right now in terms of recovery they need the heavy equipment to come in and move concrete and steel and that'll be helpful but they want to get to everybody they can first in terms of rescue and recovery efforts of the human loss they want to leave the site you know as it is for a while so the ntsb can come in and do the investigation in their review starting this morning obviously are already underway or will be shortly and then of course there's going to be debris removal it's going to require heavy equipment from the army corps and others and then we need to get about the business of rebuilding this bridge but in the meantime for quite a many months we're going to have lots of disruption and traffic and economic disruption as well and i know it's i know it's early but have mndot officials giving you a timeline i mean how long does it take to clear the debris design a bridge and

build it we don't know that yet but we know from past experiences around the country you just don't build a bridge like this overnight in terms of debris removal and rebuilding a bridge best case a year and probably longer and that was governor pawlenty a few minutes ago back here live now this is the north end of the

[01:06:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=3960s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=3960s)

live now this is the north end of the bridge that has collapsed you can see some mndot workers down there a state trooper essentially just standing guard making sure nobody gets near the scene while they try to formulate a plan to go in in the search and recovery mode and you heard the governor say they're already talking about what's the future hold for this bridge this very important bridge that as we mentioned many times carries a hundred thousand cars a day one of the busiest bridges in the state of minnesota certainly a very important artery here in the twin cities metropolitan area he says it's going to be at least a year before a bridge would be rebuilt here but he told me he thought it could be quite a bit longer than that they not only have to clean the debris away after they complete the investigation then they have to design a bridge and then they have to build it as he said that doesn't happen overnight in fact it might take a year or two maybe three years so it's going to be a long-term transportation problem here in the twin cities and the governor realizes he's also got a long-term transportation funding plan that suddenly is even more urgent than it was before and that's going to be the source of debate at the state capitol vanita let's throw it back to you for now we'll keep monitoring the activity or the lack of activity right now here at the bridge well we're going to get a different perspective here tom we're going to go to our reporter chris keating on the phone he's at the staging area where they're starting the process of looking for the bodies in the river chris what can you tell us about what's going on yeah benita i'm right here on the east bank of the river specifically right behind the university of minnesota and the kauffman union if you know the school very well what i'm looking at is a staging area for sheriff's officers and dive teams there are about two dozen officers hanging out and we believe just waiting for the okay to get in the water there are several trucks full of dive tanks and wetsuits fan boats waiting in line here to get into the water waiting to be pulled on the water we were hearing that sometime after 8 o'clock divers would get in and continue the recovery effort right under the bridge 35

[01:08:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=4081s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=4081s)

under the bridge 35 w but before they get in the water of course these teams need to know that the structure what's left of it is safe now at the same time i can tell you mind you i'm about a mile downstream from where the bridge is located i'm looking at a coast guard boat out on the water just trolling and i can see the members on board scanning the water with binoculars looking for what i believe is debris and possibly any victims that have maybe come down this way but again these dive team members and sheriff's officers in boats are waiting to get back on the river this morning bonita back to you chris there must be such a frustration level i'm sure these rescuers want to get out there and recover bodies to get answers for family members and they're being held back do you have any idea how long this process would be to figure out when they can get in no no one right now can tell me anything as to whether or not they're going to be in in 10 minutes five minutes or half an hour however right now i am seeing a little bit of movement we have boat launches behind here getting on the river and i'm seeing some of these larger fan boats uh getting ready to get on the launches and being pulled in so that's probably a very good sign i also saw the command center here and many of these sheriff's officers were getting their orders and i saw a lot of movement so perhaps we're seeing a good sign that we will see some action down by the 35 w bridge very soon but so far information is coming up very slowly venita chris i'm going to keep you on the phone there for a second can we just get a live look at what's going on he says there may be a little bit more action there and i'm wondering if there's any shot we can get showing it we can't okay all right chris we'll let you go get some more information we'll try to get another live look at that area to see what kind of action is going on and as soon as that starts happening of course we will bring it to you tens of thousands of people are going to need to find a different way to work in the days and months to come we are finding this morning that many of them have opted to stay home or maybe go into work later is that what you're kind of getting the feel rusty yeah surprisingly relatively light levels of traffic in the detour zones the 280 is one of the major detours that they are suggesting we do have a

[01:10:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=4200s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=4200s)

they are suggesting we do have a crash right now in minneapolis affecting the 94 commute here's a view from 94 nikola this is the second crash for eastbound 94 right in this part of town tow truck on the scene patrol officer getting set to clear this one out but as you can imagine it's jammed up slow and go stop and go crash right behind the pole there now here's what it looks like the view from 35 w in washington and that is what is left of that 35 w bridge over the mississippi it's a very eerie sight to see this here and you can still see some of the vehicles just sitting there right in the edge of where that bridge collapsed and across the river a handful of vehicles still sitting there where the bridge collapsed this is the 10th avenue bridge that is open only to official vehicles close to traffic this morning 35w will be closed between highway 36 and interstate 94. that's the view from stinson here's the view from county road c where the folks are being funneled onto 280. we can also show you the view before you get there you can see the view from 35w and 88 relatively light rolling along pretty decent flow 35w counter road e2 same kind of a deal now here's where 94 and 35 w come together and it's shut down here so you're being routed over to 94 and 280 where you can hop on to that stretch of uh your detour in fact we have midway skycam aimed at 280 and it's a pretty decent flow both north and southbound there that is the view from our midway sky cam of 280. the stop lights will be green for north south traffic creating that freeway situation access to Broadway and county road b will be shut down so they're going to keep those folks moving north and southbound traffic pulse showing you what's going on as far as the flow around town there's that crash eastbound 94. here's the entire metro you can see in minneapolis it's interstate 94 that's long ago but look at the approach 35 w north of that bridge collapsed 35 w just

[01:12:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=4321s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=4321s)

north of that bridge collapsed 35 w just south of that bridge collapse and even 280 lit up green and they're flowing along people are obviously finding other ways or avoiding minneapolis on that stretch altogether westbound 494 is slow takes you 26 minutes to travel between 35 and 35 w 94 eastbound from minneapolis to 280 is slow with that crash takes you 19 minutes with an average speed of 18 miles per hour 94 westbound from st paul to minneapolis average speeds 22 miles per hour it takes you about 23 minutes not too unusual to see that kind of traffic flow at this time of the morning that's what's happening so far with this very unusual rush hour this morning benita very unusual rusty at this time usually you're seeing good morning america we of course are preempting it to bring you this live local coverage but we wanted to show you what good morning america is working on here in minneapolis they talked to a few of the victims we want to turn now to some of the people who rode that bridge down and in her car was melissa hughes in his truck gary babineau and kimberly brown and kelly kaley were also in another car melissa i want to start with you because i want to show everybody at home a picture here in a red car let's see everybody that was you on that bridge you look at it and it seems simply impossible to have survived this the red car was you when you were in there did you see other cars coming down did you see other people coming down off the bridge the car in front of me seemed to slide towards me but it seemed like i recall seeing construction workers in the air just things suspended in air so you could just see people suspended suspended in the air yes and what was the sound like what was the feeling like as this was happening to you the sound is gone from my memory um but the feeling is kind of a free-fall feeling like i had a amusement park ride that it can't be real of a terrible kind

[01:14:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=4441s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=4441s)

that it can't be real of a terrible kind another passenger helped you out we look at the picture and cannot imagine that you survived what crushed in on top of you was it close to you how close how many inches away actually i think it was just over the back seat of my car i don't think that it covered up the front area at all i didn't know that anything had landed on me all right i have a picture i'm showing everybody at home too because afterwards your three-month-old new baby was brought to the scene by your husband olivia what were you thinking when you were sitting in that car about olivia um just that i wanted her there once i got out i wanted to hold her i wanted to hold her and we love seeing you there so glad that that was a happy birthday

like that well gary was nearby right gary i know that many have have seen your your truck on the video uh that we saw all night long the blue truck that you were in the vehicle on fire uh beside yours a car that we see that that looks like it's gonna fall down on you you said it all began with a rumbling noise that you heard when you were driving home yeah there was a it started rumbling just for a split second and then the whole bridge just gave away and it was just a free fall and you were looking you said at the at the car that was above you we see the video and boy those emergency brakes were really really holding were you concerned that it was going to fall yeah there were other cars up there that that after i came to a stop they they were falling around me and uh i waited for a second and just got out and i saw that white car and just thought it's the only it's the only one up there and that one was right above me and in the other direction the school bus that we've been talking about this morning and you were able to to help the children yeah after i got after i got down i ran over and you know was helping the other guys pull them out of the school bus and then

[01:16:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=4560s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=4560s)

bus and then hand them off the bridge to other people and i was i was down grabbing kids too after you there were so many kids that just kicking and screaming and they're handing them down and we're just carrying them to safety or you know telling them just to run everybody helping out as best they could well kimberly brown kelly kaley in yet another car and a car that by the way was heading toward the river toward the water itself landed on debris kimberly you had a camera and afterwards you took pictures which always seems to me a kind of presence of mind and calm i can't imagine myself doing but here we are we are looking at your pictures taken right there at the scene give me a sense of what you were hearing and seeing around you there was there was a lot of noise it seemed like a lot of a lot of sirens you know just a lot of confusion and and yeah just a lot of a lot of sound and a lot of action going on and kelly this began with you feeling the the whole structure weaving in some way you're in the car and you actually feel it weaving first yes it actually felt like it was oscillating a little bit and we saw the road rise up in front of us before we fell and kelly this is a bridge that you travel all the time we were told over 140 000 people a day travel across the bridge were you ever ever concerned because there had been that it was structurally deficient and it was an odd type of structure what was it what did you feel going across the bridge all the time um just normally when we go over it i mean we were talking earlier it doesn't feel like it's a bridge it's so big and so comfortable we didn't think this could happen at all and i want to get a sense again 50 cars as we know fell into the water didn't have the debris supporting them under the water

[01:18:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=4680s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=4680s)

debris supporting them under the water the way that you did but when you first hit that water did you have a sense that you could roll down roll off and and actually roll into the bottom of the mississippi i was a little afraid that uh something would roll on top of us and we'd be trapped and all i could think of was god this was not the way i wanted to die and what a quote that is when the accident happened dozens of people ran to help jennifer griswold is live with one of those responders jenny and benita we've just been hearing some stories so many near miss stories and i'm joined now by jay reeves who works for the red cross red cross is right by the scene of this but you're talking about your first hand experience tell me where were you what did you see i had just passed through the intersection of 13th avenue and west river headed towards the bridge i was about maybe a hundred yards or so from it when it collapsed it actually i saw it in my peripheral vision first and then looked up my my first impression the first thought was this this isn't happening and then obviously i caught up with myself and it was you looked up because it was above you it was in front of me but yeah it was above me but i'll downrange a little bit tell me when you got out of your vehicle you're trained in ems what did you do the first thing that i thought of was to make sure that i park in a way that i don't interfere with the scene when i got out of my car i heard a whole bunch of screaming kids the school there was a school bus on the deck right above where i was i parked about 20 feet from the bridge deck and my only thought was we got to get everybody out of this area the bridge was making or something in the area the bridge was making a groaning sound so my first concern was that there would be a secondary collapse of what had already come down it looked like an unstable situation so my entire priority was to get everybody away from the area and how exactly did you do that you were

[01:20:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=4800s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=4800s)

and how exactly did you do that you were telling the story i can whistle very loudly and i whistled as loud as i could and yelled at the top of my lungs if you can hear my voice and you can walk get out now and uh people some good samaritans that were ahead of me in the traffic line i mean they're people even closer had already begun the process of getting the kids off the bus and kind of lowering them down over the side which probably about eight feet down to west river and that's people had already started that process there were people that were looking underneath they made me very concerned and i yelled at them very forcefully you need to get out of there even if there are people that need help under there there are professionals on the way you don't need to go under there and get hurt yourself all i wanted to do was get people out you got people out how many people do you think now i didn't physically go up on the bridge deck and get people off the bus i did assist i can only say that i assisted one person and where i actually carried them off the bus she had multiple lacerations and they handed her to me because i i guess the uniform said hey and somebody yelled they said hey medic a medic and they handed her to me and you were actually down there we're seeing a lot of shots of the bridge what does it look like being right there it just looks bigger that's that's all you can that's all i can say i remember the moment that it happened it looked like it was a 50-story building once i was able to go down and the police escorted me down so i could get my car out of the area suddenly i realized the whole thing is only maybe 20 30 feet tall because it's all collapsed down in on itself and jay you were talking about those kids in those buses i want to say thank you there were about 60 children in that school bus and we are told all of those kids are all right and you were talking about good samaritans i have to say you're one of them out there thank you back to you vanita hey thank you so much jennifer joining us now on the phone is u of m professor ted columbus an expert in structural engineering thank you so much for joining us professor good morning good morning

[01:22:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=4920s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=4920s)

professor good morning good morning um i have a lot of questions for you first of all when you initially saw the video of this collapse what were your general impressions i didn't believe it it's uh it's uh one of these impossible events i think this uh i've never seen or studied anything like this but when you look that at this from your professorial point of view what do you see as far as what may have happened and i know you can't spec you know specify a cause yet this is going to take months to figure out but what can you tell us when you see the video well i uh as i understand it the bridge was a bridge that is a statically determinate truss and that means that if one member fails it is possible for the bridge to fall down so that is something that is a possibility but as you said it will take maybe years to figure out exactly what happened okay professor i have a report here that i've had since last night that i have so many questions on back in 2001 there was an evaluation done by the department of civil engineering at u of m on this bridge and they basically said the bridges deck truss has not experienced fatigue cracking i'm quoting it but it has many poor fatigue details on the main truss and floor system yet in the end their conclusion was mndot does not need to prematurely replace this bridge what can kind of can you elaborate in layman's terms what this means well this means that you know fatigue is when after many many cycles of stress reversal you are getting a crack in the seal and there are certain details like connections of let's say two beams together

[01:24:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=5040s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=5040s)

of let's say two beams together that are more vulnerable to fatigue cracking than let's say when you have a much better detail and at the time that this bridge was designed and built some of these things weren't completely understood yet and so this is what that report says that there are weaknesses in there but that there have been not any fatigue failures yet or any fatigue cracks and that the stresses that were in those details were not high enough to to generate these these cracks professor thank you so much it's a very uh nice to get at the point of view of a structural engineering expert and we really appreciate your time susannah song is now live at the tr as actually hennepin county medical center and she's been getting updated on patient conditions we had that news conference earlier susanna what is the latest benita we now know there are 79 victims from yesterday's bridge collapse and these victims have been scattered

throughout hospitals all over the metro not just here at hennepin county medical center but we did speak with three emergency room doctors here at hennepin county medical center and they said they could only talk numbers for this specific hospital they say 24 victims were brought here one died overnight he was inside his vehicle when it fell 64 feet into the river he died from chest injuries six are in critical condition with life-threatening injuries 10 are in satisfactory condition and eight were treated and released today most of the injuries stem from blunt force trauma and injuries to the head chest and abdomen now out of these victims there are five children their injuries were not serious one doctor says hundreds of hospital staff responded their quick thinking to set up triage

[01:26:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=5160s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=5160s)

their quick thinking to set up triage should be applauded along with bystanders who helped pull victims out of the rubble he says it could have been far worse when you think about what the scene looked like the fact that we had 80 people injured and in itself is somewhat of a miracle that it's at low but a lot of the a lot of the victims we encountered that were on the bridge fortunately run on portions of the span that didn't have a very long collapse and didn't drop very far and had quite minor injuries if they were injured at all now the doctor you just heard could not verify the total death toll you can only say again one person died here at hennepin county medical center overnight he said the most serious injuries actually stunned from the area north of the collapse and the most i guess satisfactory conditions right now are victims who were actually south of the collapse and again we will bring you more information as it becomes available reporting live from hennepin county medical center susannah song five eyewitness news okay thank you susannah now we want to show you more of the coverage from good morning america normally you'd be seeing them right now but we had to preempt it because of this major story they have amazing stories of survival and we're hearing so many of them this morning it's so interesting to hear the stories that are coming out from people who made it through this the things they tell you about how far they fell and the dramatic impact it's almost unbelievable but it is best understood in the words of someone who actually survived it and we want you to listen right now in her own words jamie wenager she was on that bridge she made it through and to hear it is just something you have to hear i think it fell four times so we know we felt i don't know 40 feet we don't know how far we felt and then a car we fell on a car so we think the car might have been accelerating behind us and my husband was trying to stop stop stop because we didn't know what was happening we feel so lucky because you didn't feel like you were going to live through it you didn't know what was happening they were yelling in the back one of the kids

[01:28:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=5280s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=5280s)

were yelling in the back one of the kids was yelling it's an earthquake we didn't know what we were feeling because it was such i and that's why my head my neck hurts right now and i know it was because it was going down like hard like you just felt this blam blam blam just kept like four times i think you know it's interesting to note when you hear about her story of not thinking she was going to make it when this bridge was first put up in 1967 it was referred to as the saint anthony bridge and he is the patron saint of travelers and certainly there are a lot of people looking for prayers on that bridge last night robin a lot of prayers going out chris you are our eyes out there and i you know when you just said you can't you're seeing it and you can't believe it can you just somehow describe what it is uh when you hear that it's something that you've never seen before that is an app description this is not what a structure is supposed to look like they're usually stress tested and designed to not do this it literally looks like a layer of cards or dominoes that have fallen cars are everywhere people were everywhere for a while but now it's filled with rescuers and responders doing their best to make the situation stable and this community has certainly come out and helping one another very much robin all right chris thank you and we'll have much more on this throughout our broadcast and we want to mention that charlie gibson will be will be reporting live from minneapolis as well tonight on world news and again we'll have more a little bit later you just heard it there charlie gibson will be here this evening tens of thousands of people are finding different ways to get into work this morning because it hasn't been too much of a problem morning commute has looked fairly typical would you say rusty a little bit atypical actually lighter than normal which which is good because yeah a lot to deal with here in this

first morning after the bridge collapse and we are finding uh it seems people may be just avoiding minneapolis altogether here's what it looks like from traffic management center cameras the live shot of what was the 35w bridge over the mississippi and just amazing to see it the 10th avenue bridge is open if you see vehicles moving on there they are it's open

[01:30:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=5401s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=5401s)

are it's open only to official vehicles closed to the public so that is not a way to get across the river 35 w is shut down basically from the highway 36 down to 94. here's the view from 280 and that has become basically your official detour is 35 w the funnily right down to 280 90 gets you right down there to 94. that's the view from 94 and 280. here's 94 as it crosses the mississippi the view from riverside and looking good the only problem we've had this morning a couple of fender benders near 94 in nicollet tow truck should have cleared this one out it looks like it has and lanes have now reopened but it is a slow commute eastbound 94 coming out of minneapolis 35 w but coming into minneapolis south of downtown here's a live shot from 26th and it is moving right along in fact traffic pulse will be able to show us well before we go to travel okay we'll go to traffic polls there it is i'm sorry pretty typical for this time of the morning as far as a rush hour goes the red showing you where speeds drop below 30 miles per hour it does include that stretch of 94 westbound as you approach 280 but 280 is flowing right along 494 westbound is crowded between 35 and 35 w just 17 miles per hour 94 eastbound now that that fender bender has cleared out this should start to pick up but right now heavy conditions speeds just 20 miles per hour there's 94 westbound at 27 miles per hour 35b to 35w i was going to say we do have a shot of 280 from our midway skycam and there it is and you can see north and southbound moving right along they've converted this basically to a freeway status this morning the stop lights lit up green no access to Broadway and County Road B they want to keep you moving north and southbound so 35 w between 35 w and 94 280 right now moving right along north and southbound and some sunshine out there this morning patrick

[01:32:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=5520s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=5520s)

out there this morning patrick yeah rusty it's looking like weather is not going to be an issue for any recovery efforts at all or for anybody having to deal with this extended travel delays that you may experience over the next period of time 70 right now in minneapolis 63 in blaine notice how it's cooler across the northern part of our viewing area 59 in St. Clouds 66 degrees in Faribault and statewide a very comfortable morning for sure 72 Rochester the weather pattern it looks like for today tomorrow will be a nice one high pressure building in northwesterly winds getting rid of that humidity we had for the last few days but notice that by Saturday we do see an increase in moisture a warm front will be approaching looks like the chances of rain on Saturday and thunderstorms getting a little bit better and better day by day so it looks like we will see some wet weather for part of the weekend likely the first half not for today 87 in the Twin Cities 82 in Brainerd 79 in Bemidji so cooler for you 84 degrees in Mankato and Oatana too all right so here's your forecast for today 87 mostly sunny skies and northwest breeze 5 to 15 miles an hour for tonight the clear skies continue 64. and the seven-day forecast does feature a change a wetter weather pattern setting up it looks like four late Friday night into Saturday an isolated storm on Sunday and then a better chance of some storms and maybe some severe weather on Monday and even into Tuesday with drier weather on Wednesday Benita okay thank you patrick okay here's the latest information about the 35w bridge collapse over the Mississippi it's the latest information we have into our newsroom this morning we've learned the official death toll we've been hearing nine from the Star Tribune we've been reporting seven it has been lowered to four you're getting a live look by the way also from chopper five of the scene right now as I continue to tell you these facts but that death toll while it's been lowered to four is expected to rise we've learned North Memorial Medical Center treated nine patients seven have been released

[01:34:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=5640s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=5640s)

nine patients seven have been released two are in serious condition the hennepin county medical center reports they treated an arch reading 24 people five are critically hurt one person did die police chief tim dolan said an estimated 20 to 30 people are still missing thursday morning this morning so many families are worried about their missing loved ones overnight many looked for answers at the red cross's family center christie peel has the latest from the holiday inn in the metro dome sisters brothers mothers and fathers all missing christie foster can't find her brother and his girlfriend overwhelmed with not knowing with your outfit i want i want to see my brother and my son wants to see his uncle foster and nearly 100 other families hope to find answers with the red cross and the 20 pastors and counselors waiting here looking for my cousin she's got a family member come on the red cross is compiling a list of the lost when workers get word they'll call the loved ones foster came here because she searched everywhere else we've had no luck anywhere any places that we know them to be and hang out at there's no sign of them whatsoever you can hear it in foster's voice and you can see it in her eyes she's scared now praying for the best but bracing for the worst it's just like they disappeared off the face of the earth and that was reporter christy peel the red cross has set up a hotline for families to call we've been telling you this phone number it is at the bottom of your screen seven 612-871-7676 if you're not sure maybe wondering you hadn't heard from a loved one they may have been on the bridge you're concerned about it call this number the red cross will be able to help you now we want to show you again we've been showing you all morning surveillance video of the actual bridge collapse as it happened we want to warn you this video from cnn may be disturbing to some but it may

[01:36:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=5760s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=5760s)

may be disturbing to some but it may give you a clearer picture of what happened here it is in slow motion you can see it falling into the river the water coming up the debris the smoke and then you can see the upper part of the bridge there and then it comes back down again here's a look at it again you can see that collapse right there and then the water smoke and debris coming up and the cars left dangling and in their spots on the bridge where they had just been sitting and it literally this is slow motion but it just happened in seconds and this is courtesy cnn again it's going to give structural engineers a look maybe an idea of what may have happened it's just startling to actually see it in as it's happening there let's check in with bob mcnamey who is in chopper 5. bob you are over the scene right now are you seeing much activity are they able to get in there and start looking for these victims well they should be pretty quickly uh we have noticed a little bit of activity at the bottom of the screen obviously the collapse then the withstanding structure bridge right next to it and then as we push in slowly we that's the the first couple of boats that we've seen uh away from the actual debris itself have just arrived a short time ago you can see there's a couple of them that are a few hundred yards maybe from the actual collapse and there's a tugboat as well that's in the same general area overnight we saw small boats basically patrolling the area but as you can see there doesn't appear to be divers in the water or anyone in the water at the immediate collapse site we understand that there's still mustering if you will over near the university of minnesota and the game plan is to get a game plan in place and and to move in there i talked to a representative of the national transportation safety board a short time ago while we're on the ground and he tells me that the jump team and all the people from washington should be landing probably within the hour and they'll be getting down to the scene rather quickly they'll get briefed by the local folks and then and then go from there to see what they

[01:38:03 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=5883s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=5883s)

what they that was a brief report from bob mcnamey you saw we lost our signal there let's go check in with rusty gatenby again it's very important for us to keep checking back with you rusty just to monitor that traffic situation and once again go over those detours very important yeah we have it mapped out for if you're just tuning in or need a refresher on the official detour here's how it maps out 280 is what they're recommending and they have converted 280 to basically a freeway status the stoplight is going to be lit up green access to Broadway and County Road B will not be allowed they want you to keep moving north and southbound then you go down to 94 back up to 694 depending on where you're headed you may want to think about highway 100 or 169 to come on down from the north side or 35 E if you're over there on the Saint Paul side it appears today a lot of folks just chose not to come to Minneapolis period which is okay we don't need any more

headaches this morning all right again here's a live shot from that bridge collapse from traffic management center's point of view 35 w and the bridge there the view from washington we could show you that the approach on 35w 280 where that detour begins still moving just fine 35 w county road c not a problem in fact coming in from the south part of town 35 w26 this has been relatively light all morning from the crosstown right into downtown it's been moving at near 55 miles per hour we've had some slow downs between saint paul in minneapolis on interstate 94 but nothing too extreme nothing out of the ordinary as far as your typical morning rush hour and a couple of fender benders just out of minneapolis on 94. those have cleared out but it's still a bit crowded 94 eastbound there's the view from lindale we can show you with traffic pulse what's going on here's the entire metro if i didn't know any better i'd say it's just another day driving around the twin cities notice that black section north of downtown minneapolis that is where that bridge collapse

[01:40:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=6000s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=6000s)

where that bridge collapse has happened 94 westbound i mentioned it is slow as you approach 280 and then 94 eastbound it is slow as you approach 280 but nothing too extreme in fact 494 westbound has the slowest traffic between 35 and 35 w takes you 23 minutes you're moving at about 19 miles per hour 94 eastbound because of those fender benders we've had some slow down to right now you're moving at about 20 miles per hour takes you 17 minutes and then 94 westbound coming out of saint paul into minneapolis about 31 miles per hour it takes you 16 minutes but the biggest surprise is how light the flow on 35w is both as you come in from north of downtown and as you come in from the crosstown we've seen a very nice commute this morning of course that's this morning we'll see how it becomes in the days and weeks and months to follow benita okay that will be something we'll have to keep an eye on thank you rusty now we have shannon bauer on the phone with us she's from the army corps engineers thank you so much for joining us shannon hi bonita um give us your perspective on what kind of an impact we've been talking a lot about traffic situations what this means for people who use 35w what does this mean for river traffic at this point right now obviously we're closed for the upper harbor there's not the debris is right at the base of our lower saint anthony falls walking dam and what kind of impact will this have in the the days and weeks to come as far as river traffic you know at this moment i don't know how long it's going to take to get the debris out of there but it'll obviously slow things down for at least weeks i would assume what other perspective can you give us on this as far as from the army corps of engineers well right now we're looking at their cinnamon investigators there's no structural engineers in that to look at what happened and then when they're done we're going to drop the pool at luck and dam one which is a three mile stone river from where the accident occurred and

[01:42:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=6121s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=6121s)

where the accident occurred and that will lower the water levels to make it easier for emergency workers to get down in there how much by how much will it lower the water level if you do that around a foot or two and that can be a critical difference yeah right now the depths of the channel are about 4 to 13 feet it ranges as you go across the river okay so that will help them help them in their recovery efforts and then also looking at the structure itself now the engineers how did they go about the process of investigating can you describe that at all do you have any knowledge of that well this isn't we're not involved in the investigation yeah and that would be like the state people and okay you're not involved in that at all yeah okay anything else you want to add that i didn't ask you not at the moment um we're just you know taking things as they come at this point okay but a key thing is that you you will be lowering that water level to make it easier for recovery efforts right okay all right thank you so much shannon for giving us your perspective we want to bring you more coverage from abc's good morning america from earlier this morning you may have heard that abc's charlie gibson will be here tonight chris cuomo is here right now they had a look at the history of the bridge collapses in the u.s first we do want to get the latest on the recovery efforts at the scene of the i-35 bridge collapse divers scouring the muddy waters of the mississippi combing through wreckage and submerged cars chris cuomo again live on the scene for us chris robin people here are struggling to understand how a bridge that's only 40 years old a bridge that was built to withstand the highest level of interstate traffic could just suddenly collapse with an unknown number of dead and many many injured and up to two or three

dozen still missing people here are wondering how this all happened and also realizing that this could have been so much worse it was at rush hour that minneapolis's most traveled bridge the i-35w collapsed without warning it felt like an earthquake it sounded like an explosion the massive

[01:44:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=6241s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=6241s)

sounded like an explosion the massive bridge fell in three sections as many as 50 cars plunged into the mississippi river below i think it fell four times so we know we found i don't know 40 feet we don't know how far we felt my husband was trying to stop stop stop because we didn't know what was happening this tractor-trailer was crushed by a section of the bridge and caught on fire next to it a school bus with 52 children inside barely made it across but all the kids managed to escape a federal report from 2005 said the bridge was structurally deficient and may need to be repaired we know that the bridge was inspected in 2005 and 2006 by state inspectors and while there were some stress or surface concerns noted that they didn't call for or identify a need for the bridge to be replaced those are scary words in that federal report structurally deficient may need replacement the numerical scores aren't that great why wasn't that a cause of concern for you well i think it was a cause for concern but the federal government uses a terminology they're kind of bottom two categories of structurally deficient and functionally obsolete there are 80 000 bridges in that category or so across the country well that may be the case however as you can see right behind me there is now a bridge and a huge pile and that was never supposed to happen so people here are digging for some answers there are some discrepancies and certainly a lot of second guessing diane yes as the investigation is into its early stages and as we know it's not the first time one of these seemingly invincible structures has collapsed with little warning here is a look now at some of the past bridge collapses and what was learned from them they are symbols of man's daring steel and concrete engineering feats americans take for granted each and every day in the u.s there are an estimated 600 000 bridges but how safe according to the center for international and strategic studies more than a quarter of this nation's bridges are now structurally unstable built in 1967 minnesota's i-35w bridge was constructed

[01:46:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=6362s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=6362s)

minnesota's i-35w bridge was constructed with a single steel arch to avoid placing piers in the water that slows down river traffic as the minnesota bridge collapse proves in an instant modern ingenuity can create tragedy in 2002 a barge rammed into a section of the weber falls bridge in oklahoma submerging cars taking 14 lives in a similar 1980 accident a 600-foot freighter plows into the sunshine skyway bridge during a storm plunging a greyhound bus three cars and a truck into tampa bay it killed 35 commuters and in 1967 46 people lost their lives when the silver bridge buckled and collapsed into the ohio river taking with it 31 vehicles now let's check in with bob mcnaaney who is in chopper five bob uh you're listening to my uh phone conversation with the army corps of engineers you have some perspective on the locks and dams yeah well basically what you're talking about here is is controlling the river and if we'll push in a little bit as you look at the the debris field that we've been talking about and just to the right of the screen is a lock and damn now that's not the one that she's necessarily talking about to be open to lower the river level for what what i understand it's going to be a little bit further down river probably closer to the ford plant and then beyond but what that does for people aren't all that familiar with it it literally raises and lowers uh the river level in an area you can see there's there's some guys standing on there as well and that's an area that's controlled by the army corps of engineers so as best they can they're going to try to manipulate the river uh depth to to help in the recovery effort and again one of the big benefits that they have today is the fact that the river is at a very low stage because of the drought and the currents are relatively low although we should point out as you see the the water swirling uh there are very they're unpredictable currents if you will when you when you when you deal with a

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when you when you when you deal with a steady bass of water it's all coming at you basically in one direction but with all the debris in the water i've talked to experts about this it creates some whirlpooling effect at times and that can make going in there even as difficult and as dangerous as being on the structure itself as we pan up you can see there's a tremendous amount of equipment that's already been brought into place and we as we showed you just a short time ago there are a couple of boats that that are working their way up and down the river in the general vicinity as you see of the of the collapse site you see at the bottom of your screen there's a couple of them there we've also noticed a couple of barges uh that are a little bit further down river closer to the i-94 area and there's a tug going down to one of them right now earlier we got a look and we know as you pan down the river past the university of minnesota that those barges and the tugs have cranes on them they could potentially be used to help clear debris or move things away as you as we push in you see one of them that that tug and uh and barge is probably oh maybe a three quarters of a mile or so uh downward from the the accident scene itself so you know it's as you look down again you can see that that's sort of a staging area for people the one benefit that they do have is that as tangled as that area is the access to that portion of the river is relatively good but all right bob thank you very much quick question for you here when you look at the bridge collapse from up above there you're saying that those tugs and might be helping out in the process can you think of other ways they're going to be able to get some of those vehicles off and get some of that debris removed well i i think what you're going to see in is to get the you like any mass disaster like this you get the human remains out and then after that the bridge itself once investigated they won't move it they will look at it for a considerable amount of time and once they realize that they have

[01:50:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=6600s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=6600s)

and once they realize that they have essentially mapped photograph scoped the debris field if you will then they'll start to move in and then when you're when you're looking at these barges then it'd be relatively easy for one of these cranes on one of these barges to pull a car out of the water and and plop it on a barge uh as far the larger pieces of equipment uh that is something that will take months and months and months to do but i don't anticipate that we're going to see any substantial removal of cars or substantial removal of debris except to move human remains out of there for many many days it is eerie to see those cars still in those same spots where they were it's locked in and there's a there's a construction truck down there that still has a flashing light on it it's a little bit more difficult to see during the daylight hours but it's this time time stood still the the batteries are still running on that truck as you as we take a a walk if you will down this bridge you can see it the cars are in the same spot as we saw yesterday those two cars in the bottom however the red one and it's a wider silver one and a darker one that is something that we've been able to pick up this morning uh since the sun has come up and that should give you an indication that uh that the cars are that they're they're pretty close to the surface at least in that area one other thing that hasn't discussed a whole lot uh is the muck factor if you will the river bottom can be quite soft it can be quite mucky if you will and sometimes that will add to the difficulty in finding victims because a car will certainly essentially burrow in and it can also when you're starting to remove things it'll literally muddy the water so depending on how mucky the water is for lack of a better term uh that could that could go a long way in slowing the recovery efforts as well okay thank you bob for that perspective from up above from chopper 5. at a time like this many people are turning to friends family and to their faith the archdiocese of saint paul minneapolis have scheduled prayer services

[01:52:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=6720s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=6720s)

have scheduled prayer services today in about three hours coming up at noon the minneapolis service will be at st olaf catholic church in saint paul go to the cathedral of saint paul again at noon in light of the bridge collapse the minnesota twins have postponed this afternoon's game versus kansas city the team was also scheduled to break ground on the new twins ballpark in downtown minneapolis today those events have been canceled for today and will be rescheduled at a later date along with today's game kevin smith from the minnesota twins public affairs department joins us now good morning kevin good morning well first of all we have been so looking forward to this date august 2nd was circled on our calendars as a happy date that we were going to be you know watching the groundbreaking for this stadium and it's just so sad to see what's

happened yeah i think sadness is probably the best word because we're sad for a lot of the people who spent countless hours building that site up for today we're sad obviously for the event that happened yesterday and all of us are thinking about that as everyone is and but at the end of the day what we had planned was was an event and events can be postponed and events can be rescheduled and today is certainly not a day of celebration and ceremony it's a day to focus on much more important things absolutely kevin talk about the decision last night you know it's and we've been talking about it this morning some of those people may have been on their way to the twins game it happened at 605 close to the metrodome um you know it's just you know families on their way to the twins game possibly it's right it was it was an early thought it was an eerie time there's no question about it 605 on 30 on 35w is uh you know you can see the dome from the from the bridge and i'm work we uh did have calls last night people family members and friends were calling us to see if their loved ones or family had the friends had been able to get to the game we are we were able to uh with our ticketing system

[01:54:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=6840s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=6840s)

ticketing system tracked down if people had picked up their tickets at will call for example or if they had scanned them through into the dome so we were able to comfort people that way and we even sent some of our guest services personnel directly if we had a section a row and a seat number to send people right to that location and report back that yes indeed uh your your person in question is here and safe so it was a very surreal evening uh last night isn't that wonderful that you were able to do that and probably just so many relieved family members when you were able to call them back and tell them that talk about the decision kevin to go ahead with the game there were some key reasons for it first and foremost you didn't want to let all those fans back out into that area right there were a couple a couple of things that were in play at that moment of course the bridge collapsed at 605 which was almost exactly an hour prior to the twins game now an hour before a twins game there are a lot of people uh in the dome and milling around outside on the plaza getting ready for the ball game is you know beautiful summer night and there was limited information that a lot of these people were able to get because of the other crisis that occurred and that was the cell phone issue that people could not communicate with one another so we just and we decided that an hour before the game and after we were getting some details and talked to the police department that the best course of action was to keep those 25 000 people in place continue with the game let things settle down let those first responders get on the streets and do what they needed to do and then advise the fans during the game uh what and how they should exit the dome and where the way they should not go so it really kind of gave 25 000 folks and us and the authorities an opportunity to uh manage uh a lot of cars that we did on those roadways kevin there must have been so much going on behind the scenes you know we've been

[01:56:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=6960s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=6960s)

on behind the scenes you know we've been hearing about people training for things like this i assume at the minnesota twins organization you don't train for this well you don't train for this specific type of event but we do have a crisis plan that's in place we have a lot of uh we do train and we have protocols in place for weather situations you know granted as we all know we're playing inside the dome and once you get in there anyone who's been in the metronome knows uh your captive audience you have no clue what's happening outside and sometimes we'll have severe weather that may be moving through the area lightning and we have to advise people on how to proceed as they exit the dome so we have protocols in place to handle uh spot news for lack of a better term and advise a vast group of people on how to exit orderly kevin when will we know or when will you make the decision on when this groundbreaking will be rescheduled we will be having those discussions today uh throughout the day that will be one piece that we need to decide uh how it will look will it be the same will it be different uh we'll talk a little bit about how will and when to reschedule the game that was postponed today how that fits both into kansas city's schedule as well as ours and we'll also have some discussions about the long weekend uh homestand we have uh coming up tomorrow as well to see if any of those games may be affected don't know that they will be but you know those are discussions we have to have so these are still there there's a possibility then you're considering possibly not playing or that are you not really willing to say that or what well yeah you know we're taking everything into

consideration i mean is it appropriate should we is it i mean it's a big series and uh what about the authorities and those in the recovery operation uh are we causing trouble or are they going to be okay well they have alternate routes pretty much established so our fans can get to the dome safely a lot of things that are need to be thrown up in the air and put on the white board and discussed and figured

[01:58:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=7081s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=7081s)

white board and discussed and figured out today okay thank you so much kevin smith for joining us giving your perspective on this we really appreciate it well rusty is here with a look at the traffic situation it is 8 57 rusty what is this usually the tail end of the rush hour yeah typically the tail end of the rush hour it looks like as we check out the live shot there from the bridge collapse it was the flow on 35w that we thought for sure was going to be jammed up this morning traffic pulse though showing us a different picture the green is good and you can see we have plenty of green around town this morning 494 westbound down there bloomington richfield you see the red indicating some slow and go commuting and then 94 in minneapolis both eastbound and westbound as you approach 280 you see the slowdowns and 280 is going to be the main detour for the 35w collapse you'd see in black there that stretch where the bridge collapse is located some travel times for you 494 westbound the slowdowns there 23 miles per hour 94 from minneapolis to 280. we're moving at 23 miles per hour it's now a 15 minute commute at one point we had a couple of fender benders jamming things up we had about a one hour delay now it's just 15 minutes 94 westbound from saint paul to minneapolis it's a 12 minute drive and you're moving at 40 miles per hour in fact we can show you the flow around town we've got a nice drive just about anywhere you go on 35 into minneapolis the view from 26th here's the view uh from 35 w and 280 where they funnel you down onto that detour the view from 35 w and county road c and there the the barriers are out there letting you know that this is the way to 280. if you want to go 36 eastbound that's how you get there no delays even the view from 35 different county road e2 we are in good shape there is the shot of the bridge from traffic management center cameras and it's just very eerie

[02:00:03 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=7203s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=7203s)

and it's just very eerie such a nice sunny morning and if you didn't know any better you'd think this bridge was being built but there's a one of the vehicles right there in the edge of the bridge collapse across the way you can see a handful of vehicles on the bridge collapse the 10th avenue bridge closed the public open only to official vehicles so that is not the way to cross the river bridge excuse me the way to cross the mississippi river here's 94 as it approaches that river bridge and it's a decent flow in both directions we also have our midway sky cam aimed at 280 the alternate route and that is zipping right along again it's been converted into a freeway status this morning with the stop and go lights lit up green you're not able to exit off or get on from Broadway or county road b they want you to just keep moving north and southbound from 35 w down there to interstate 94. so it's only been really interstate 94 that we've seen the heavier congested flow this morning and that's actually pretty typical for a twin cities commute the slowdowns we've been seeing on interstate 94. that's what's happening with the rush hour right now this is 5 eyewitness news morning good morning everyone it is nine o'clock you're getting a live look from chopper 5 at the 35w bridge collapse we have been over the scene ever since it happened now just moments after the collapse here our bridge collapse coverage continues this hour this morning we've learned the official death toll has been lowered to four we have learned north memorial medical center treated nine patients seven have been released two are in serious condition hennepin county medical center reports they treated 24 people five are critically hurt one person died police chief tim dolan says an estimated 20 to 30 people are still missing this morning originally 20 people but he went so far as to say possibly 30

[02:02:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=7321s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=7321s)

but he went so far as to say possibly 30 people still missing bob mcnaaney is in chopper 5 right now and bob talk about the recovery efforts can you have they begun uh it does not appear that they have there is you look down at the the debris field itself what you're what you're having this morning is a very slow and deliberate uh planning of how exactly to do this you know as they want to recover the remains as quickly as

possible but the most critical thing is to not get anybody hurt in the process and we heard from uh rich danica sheriff of penneban county a little bit earlier this morning say uh that they were still assessing the the structural integrity of the of the bridge itself as we move our way down the river a little bit you'll be able to see some of the folks that we're talking about you we troll past the university of minnesota maybe a mile or so down river and we'll take you to the staging area where there are a couple of barges that have been pushed to shore that motors are running and as you see there are able to load equipment on or people if they need to and obviously all the uh cars trailers and communications equipment there from the various emergency responders as you see people milling around that's about a mile maybe or so down river from the actual site and it is places like this it is places like the basement of city hall where the emergency folks are also staging where the decisions are being made about how to go ahead and do this but at the moment we have not seen divers in the water we haven't really seen anyone even in the closest proximity to the the debris as well uh at least not since about 5 30 this morning when we did see one boat that was essentially uh keeping an eye on the edge you can literally see there's a state patrol down there and they've huddled and there's some sort of information i'm sure that they're giving to one another it is a very deliberate process and it will take a long time as we have been warned not only to get to find remains but to uh to get answers i did again talk to the ntsb within the last hour or so

[02:04:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=7440s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=7440s)

last hour or so their investigators are should be arriving in twin cities probably this hour they'll be briefed and they will immediately start to figure out exactly what they have on their hands bob i know you can't assess emotions from that high in the air but there's got to be a level of frustration that they want to get out there and give these families some closure well certainly you hear it in the voices of the sheriff and the police chief and the governor but as i described it to someone else earlier uh it's a very professional very business-like attitude as we push in you can see the equipment that has been put on and is being put on that barge that will presumably go down the river we want to interrupt your thought with that because they obviously have to get the equipment out there but um there was always frustration it's sort of the the volunteers and the professionals who got to the scene immediately all they wanted to do was help people all they wanted to do is save lives well in a sense what these folks want to do now is bring closure find the people that are missing as you pointed out the death toll officially is down but the number of missing is escalated from maybe 20 to maybe 20 to 30. so they definitely do want to get in there and as far as the emotion you know it's an interesting thing i am getting emails from people contacts all across the country into canada uh this is an event that uh is being watched and being felt by people everywhere and i and i'm getting emails wishing condolences to the people of the twin cities so clearly there are people including those on the ground that you're looking at who want to do everything they can to bring as much closure and bring as many ashes as they can to the family of the victims okay thank you bob as we continue to show this shot live from chopper 5 over the staging area as these crews just wait to get out and begin the recovery efforts i want to update you on a couple of things that will be coming up here it's 904 right now at 9 30 this morning there will be a press conference with senator amy klobuchar senator norm coleman two minnesota senators will have been touring the area this morning and then they will be talking to reporters at the stone arch bridge this morning at 9 30. we are also learning that at 10 a.m this morning president bush will be making remarks

[02:06:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=7562s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=7562s)

president bush will be making remarks about this bridge collapse and possibly talking about federal assistance i'm sure that the senators have already spoken with white house officials about that and hopefully we'll get briefed on that within the next hour what kind of federal assistance the state the city county will be receiving chris o'connell joins me now on the set and he was a key part of our coverage last night the extended coverage chris can you talk about kind of what you're seeing here and what you experienced yesterday as you were one of the first reporters on the scene it was a horrible horrible scene really we got there on the scene photographer jared and i we were there at about 20 after six very shortly after it happened we arrived on the scene and it was complete and utter chaos we went to the bridge where we saw smoke that was at the south end of the bridge and um what we saw was a lot of smoke and we didn't know

where the smoke was coming from and we made our way underneath the bridge and what was burning was that 18-wheeler up in flames the cab up in flames it was literally pinned between two sections of highway and it was sliced it was sliced like a like a tin can that's the 18 wheeler we're talking about right there right next to it was an suv you can't see it was underneath that that got caught pinned uh it was a chevy trailblazer i'll never get you see that right the the left-hand side of your screen there that's a chevy trailblazer used to be blue was burning and you could see the the where the concrete this slice of highway just right over the windshield the roof of that car and we're not certain if someone was inside but we suspect there was because it didn't look like there was any chance of anyone getting out of there alive but just and countless stories of people just heroic efforts trying to go to the banks of the mississippi river and do what they can and minnesotans chipping in literally you know minute by minute after this happened

[02:08:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=7681s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=7681s)

minute by minute after this happened people just sprung into action everyone older people to younger kids ryan see what they can do and immediately asking what can we do what can we do and at that point it was just a matter of you know get out of the area because we were literally under that bridge where it buckled and and i keep saying it was bent like a paper clip that seemingly how easy it was what will happen today from what we're told is rescue crews will go into this rubble there are voids that they were structurally not sound last night it was too dark they will go piece by piece trying to search for any victims they will be the coast guard will be in their their boats trying to drag the bottom of the mississippi river trying to find any victims but you may seem by by these pictures things aren't moving very quickly but keep in mind on a rescue like this you have to have the infrastructure in place what i mean with bob mcnamey was talking about those barges you need barges to get out there to make sure the rescue crews are safe and make sure the structural integrity of what is left is still intact so if there are any kind of rescue efforts they are still safe but that is what's happening now they're mobilizing their excuse me their search and extrication teams the minnesota national guard special tactical units with all the local surrounding jurisdictions are here their best men and women are out there searching through what they're they're called voids places where people could be trapped and of course searching for those many many cars many of which we probably can't even see right now was it just pandemonium were people screaming uh describe that part of it it was uh it was and i i don't want to bring this up but it's the easiest you know comparison i could say was it was 9 11 ish there was people didn't know what was going on i

[02:10:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=7801s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=7801s)

going on i people were wondering as where were you was this a terrorist attack early on that was the first thing you see a catastrophe like this on a scale like this that is the first thing that you think of um but it was that was ruled out shortly after but yeah there was chaos people number one didn't know what was happening some thought it was an earthquake and then people running from the river people screaming just not knowing what was going on and it was before emergency crews got there the traffic downtown people i mean literally i mean for hours after this happened had tears in their eyes just knowing what happens trying to find their loved ones coming up to us to see if we they could use our cell phones that was the hardest part for us to communicate was with our cell phones cell phone service was very spotty through the first few hours of this incident so communication was very very difficult and especially for loved ones as bob said i heard from people all over the country emails and phone calls asking about my well-being because they they tried to call me and the the cell phone signal was out so it was a very disturbing and very very chaotic throughout the night chris i want you to stay right there because i'd like you to get your perspective on some video we've been showing all morning i've been commenting on it but since you were actually at the scene take a look at this this is from surveillance video cnn video of the actual collapse give me your impressions of it and describe it as it's happening it's just disturbing to see i mean that is uh you know that you those few seconds right there is one of the worst times in in twin cities history you're seeing right before your eyes on surveillance video uh it's just it it crumbled like a a ton of bricks like like it was nothing you you wonder how how cars were going over that if it felt so easily like that and of course right now that bridge it

[02:12:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=7920s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=7920s)

and of course right now that bridge it was declared structurally deficient back in 2005 by the federal highway administration and now of course it is a little too soon to point any fingers but that is exactly what's going on right now in terms of finding out exactly what happened to this this once again the bridge 2005 was it was declared structurally insufficient but that does not mean you should close the bridge there are 80 000 bridges across the country that have that designation and they are still open there are different classifications 70 000 of those bridges in worse shape than this one was so you can bet you were going to see a a overhaul of how the federal government and state governments look at bridge work and engineering this is a 40 year old bridge and that may seem on the surface in old bridge but really it's not and when you talk about those uh you know in terms of bridge life that it is not a very old not not a young bridge but certainly not a very old old bridge i think governor pawlenty said that it was due to be replaced somewhere around 2020 of course repairs were being done on it that was the big question we had yesterday in terms of construction there was construction going on this bridge but it was more or less routine repaving filling potholes just kind of minor work resurfacing work on that bridge but the questions will soon start coming how did this happen and what is the status and condition of the rest of the bridges around minnesota unfortunately this happened on one of the busiest highways in the state one of the things i'm curious about is i've gotten some emails from people questioning whether 50 cars went down with it you were there and i know you know some were in the water some were all over the place did you get a sense that there were that many cars there were a lot uh you can't count because in terms of you just don't know what's underneath

[02:14:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=8040s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=8040s)

you just don't know what's underneath the rubble you don't know what is underneath uh the water um you use there were a lot of cars in the water that was just it was just an unbelievable scene from here you can't see that but you don't know what is underneath of all that mess but i i 50 cars 50 vehicles it would not certainly be a surprise if that were the case okay thank you chris o'connell we really appreciate it i know you'll be busy today as long as well as everyone else who is covering this story today and in the many days to come lara kaplan from memorial blood centers joins us now on the phone lara can you hear me yes i can hi good morning lara we've been telling people all morning all through the night in fact lara that they should call memorial blood centers to give a donation to donate blood some people may be under the misimpression that they go to their doctor or a hospital but you'd like to be the clearinghouse for this absolutely we are very proud of the fact that we immediately supplied hcmc north memorial fairview south dale and children's hospitals with additional supplies of blood upon hearing about the tragedy and we encourage anyone who wants to help to make an appointment online www.mbc.org or call 888 give bld okay your phone line's opened at nine o'clock what kind of response have you been getting in the last 14 minutes you know what we have had an overwhelming response people have actually been calling since last night we also had people showing up outside our doors last night willing to donate blood and wanting to help and i i think that just speaks to our community and we are really grateful that we had plenty of blood to supply for this tragedy so what happens then you know someone comes down gives blood does it go directly to the hospitals that are being affected and overwhelmed by patients how do we know it's you know getting to the right people we

[02:16:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=8161s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=8161s)

the right people we we need to test it first and make sure it's safe make sure that no one has west Nile virus or anything else and so a donation goes through a testing process and then it's processed and cleared and distributed to our hospital partners and that's exactly what happened last night and then dr gorelin went to hcmc and estimated about 30 units of blood were used in the first couple hours so it was really neat to see that the community came to support us and also very interesting most of the blood that was used last night is type o which is the universal donor and so people with type o blood need to um especially call us because that's what the er doctors like to use because they don't take the time to find out what kind of blood type the person has and you are ready and able to take this onslaught of people who want to help because we have

received a lot of calls and emails people want to figure out a way to help and this is a simple way that they can truly help yes it is and you know i think the most important message here is we are always needing to be prepared and so the blood is not something that we can stockpile we need to make sure that we have ample supplies always so we can be prepared for a tragedy like this so i think the most important thing for people to know is that we need people to donate on a regular basis so we are ready for these situations okay is there anything else you'd like to add any other things you'd want to get across to the public about this i would just like to say thank you thank you for saving so many lives and memorial blood centers is so proud to be um helping our community okay and we certainly appreciate all the work you do and are helping in these types of situations thank you so much susannah song is live at hennepin county medical center she has been monitoring

[02:18:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=8280s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=8280s)

medical center she has been monitoring the situation there that is the hospital where they've seen the most people from this accident this 35w bridge collapse we've learned 24 patients there suzanna what can you tell us what's the latest there well i just spoke with doctors here at hennepin county medical center and they're expressing they've never seen anything of this magnitude at least there are 79 victims at last count they've been distributed to several hospitals across the metro we do know 24 were brought here to hennepin county medical center right now five of those victims are in critical condition one died overnight from chest injuries he was inside his vehicle when it fell off the bridge plummeting 64 feet into the river he was actually the first victim evacuated from the northern section of the collapse in fact doctors say the majority of the critically injured were on the north end out of the 24 victims here five were children and doctors say they are actually doing pretty well doctors say most of the injuries are from blunt force trauma to the head chest and abdomen cleared out 25 icu beds in a matter of 30 minutes boom we moved all the people out your training just kicks in and you do what you need to do and i think very quickly a lot of organization was brought to a very chaotic situation because we have practice for things like this we've done a lot of work on disaster preparedness in the area and that showed now doctors say they were able to speak with some of the victims a lot of them just expressing how thankful they are today to be alive and how they really wanted to see their family members i also asked doctors a little while ago if all the victims happened to be in their vehicle when the bridge collapsed or if there were any vehicles or rather any people any victims under the bridge when it had collapsed and they weren't able to give us any answers back to you bonita okay thank you susannah we have some new information coming into the newsroom as

[02:20:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=8400s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=8400s)

information coming into the newsroom as you continue to look from chopper 5 at the scene and we're still monitoring to see when the recovery efforts will begin they're just standing by there some new information coming from washington d.c as we've told you coming up at 10 o'clock president bush will be speaking about this bridge collapse but here's some information that we have received the white house says an inspection two years ago chris o'connell mentioned this the white house says an inspection two years ago found structural deficiencies in the highway bridge that buckled during our evening rush yesterday white house press secretary tony snow says the 40 year old interstate 35w span rated 50 on a scale of 120 for structural stability so their worlds were structural deficiencies 50 on a scale of 120 on structural stability now tony snow says that doesn't mean there was a risk of failure but he says if an inspection report identifies deficiencies the state is responsible for taking corrective actions this is very big news here once again he is saying that if an inspection report identifies deficiencies the state is responsible for taking corrective actions first lady laura bush by the way will visit minneapolis on friday to console the victims of the fallen bridge she was planning a visit anyway this weekend for another event so again this is news coming in from the white house we will be hearing more about this in the hours to come here but at 9 30 we'll be hearing from our senators i'm hoping we can get this information to tom houser who will be at that news conference and who can hopefully question the senators about this as well now many people say the bridge collapse looks like the aftermath of an earthquake i've heard people say comparing it to 9 11. some people who live near the bridge say that's

exactly what it felt like just like an earthquake jennifer griswold is live in minneapolis you know jennifer you look at something like this you think it happens in california not in minnesota vinnita give you a little perspective here we're looking at the north end of the bridge collapse or right on university avenue

[02:22:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=8521s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=8521s)

or right on university avenue this of course is right by where the university is i'm joined now by ryan hagnes who lives in this home which is right over my left shoulder right behind here ryan what did you see and feel last night i was in my room working on a paper and then the house started to vibrate really loud bang i could only describe as what i thought was an airplane flying too close overhead then i went over the window saw a bunch of dust and possibly smoke i heard some yelling coming from the freeway and started going outside took a look and saw the first part was buckled up and continued to walk down the street a little bit and then i got an idea of what really happened saw that the entire span had collapsed now you saw the bridge but at that time i'm sure you didn't know what caused it so you were looking at it what did you think had happened i thought due to the construction it was just a structural error in the engineering but that's just speculation obviously and ryan thank you so much so you live right here of course this is by the university ryan is allowed to be here because he lives right here but if you take a look behind me there are quite a few onlookers joined in with the media we are told that people are supposed to stay out of this area of course the media is allowed here but onlookers are supposed to stay away because they are going to start bringing in more crews hopefully in this area and traffic is starting to get backed up here on university avenue bonita back to you okay thank you jennifer i am hearing that the news conference with our two minnesota senators will possibly be happening happening after president bush speaks at 10 o'clock so we're it's looking like more like 10 15 but again we're monitoring that and of course we will bring that to you live tens of thousand people are going to need to find a different way into work through you know in the next few months years rusty and this morning what was really surprising to a lot of us was that the traffic wasn't as bad as we thought it would be i was surprised the folks at mndot were surprised especially on 35w both coming in from the north metro in the south metro

[02:24:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=8641s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=8641s)

the north metro in the south metro with the interstate shut down there over the mississippi the detour was 280 or if you wanted to go over to hybrid 100 or 169 or take 35e into st paul but it looks like folks either found a different way to come in or they are coming in now later in the morning or they just decided to take a day of vacation looking there live from chopper 5 at the scene of that bridge collapse let's map out the rush hour right now for you with traffic pulse and look at that lots of green out there and 35 w both north and south of the bridge collapse has had a decent flow through just about the entire morning 94 eastbound still a bit slow but not bad from 394 to 280 you're moving at about 28 miles per hour takes you just 12 minutes 494 down there eastbound from 2 12 to 35 w typical morning rush hour 26 miles per hour 494 westbound has been crowded all morning again that's pretty typical takes you 11 minutes to travel between 35e and 35w let's go out there live 235 and county road c here's what they've done this morning the bear the barrels the barriers they're up there to show you that 35 now goes down to 280 or you can take the exit to 36 and go eastbound and then 94 at 280. they're moving along both directions there 94 the flow not a problem 36 coming into minneapolis that's what it looks like the view from 26th and that's in good shape and then we actually have a midway sky cam looking at that 280 stretch and there it is the center of your screen the bridge there that is highway 280 which has been converted this morning into a freeway the stop-and-go lights lit up green there is no access to Broadway or county road b they want you to keep moving north and southbound there on 280 and at least for this morning the flow on 35 w from north and from the south not an issue a lot of folks have found that other way to

[02:26:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=8760s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=8760s)

that other way to get around or they are staying home and that's good news for folks having to deal with the events happening in downtown minneapolis this morning side streets you're going to be blocked off anita they're not going to let you close to the scene there they don't want gawkers and onlookers crowding what is already a crowded scene with the rescue workers out there so uh don't bother going down there to try and get a glimpse of it just stay tuned to channel five and you'll see all the coverage you could want uh many of those side streets will be blocked from you anyway so your best view is like the view you're seeing right now from chopper five vinita rusty today's a thursday tomorrow what do you think it's gonna be a different situation maybe people take two days off and it could be even different monday i've i've got to believe it's going to be a little more crowded tomorrow but maybe maybe people are just going to take off throughout the entire weekend and then it's monday where we'll see the jam ups but frankly i am surprised i thought we were going to see those delays and jam ups starting this morning but so we'll see stay tuned friday we'll let you know if we see those delays okay thanks a lot rusty now usually from seven to nine in the morning here on channel five you're able to see good morning america but because of this situation we have literally been broadcasting live ever since it happened we have not gone off the air so we want to give you a look at some of what good morning america is working on here in minneapolis they talked to a few of the victims and joining us now from washington is casey dinges who's the managing director of external affairs for the american society of civil engineers and thank you for joining us we just heard the governor of minnesota say 80 000 bridges around the country have some kind of deficiency rating so tell us you're driving across the bridge this morning all of the americans out there watching what are they supposed to do well the federal government has determined that i think 27 percent of the nation's bridges are functionally obsolete or structurally deficient but that does not necessarily mean that a single one of those structures is near

[02:28:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=8881s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=8881s)

a single one of those structures is near imminent failure so i think the average citizen should not be overly concerned about this situation right now i do think this is another wake-up call for the nation in terms of dealing with the aging infrastructure in all aspects of our lives whether it's underground water systems bridges aviation and the current congress has a number of bills before them that can deal with some of these issues right now but the the the the mo people getting into their cars today um should not be fearing for their lives as your report just indicated to to citizens it's very infrequent for a collapse of a bridge structure to occur in the united states this is the third bridge collapse that we know of this year and we said the u.s has 578 thousand highway bridges the majority of them were built after 1945 this particular bridge is only uh 40 years old that didn't there was a redundancy system that did not work with this bridge if something happens there's supposed to be another system that kicks in to prevent something like this happening are the current bridges that are being built do they have a better system in place well certainly current major bridges um i believe have to meet an ashdown standard of at least a 75-year design life back in the 60s a number of bridges were being being put into place with a 25 to 50-year design life you know this bridge was 40 years old but we've seen just in the local area here in washington a major bridge across the potomac river the wilson bridge was about 45 years old and the decision was made to completely replace that bridge so you know once a bridge has been designated to have some problems with it you know state and local inspectors will tend to increase the number of inspections they do on that bridge and keep a close eye on it and you know that's that's one of the reasons for having

[02:30:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=9000s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=9000s)

having these systems in place is to alert people to closer inspections but you should also understand that you know technology moves moves on in this country and it wasn't until the 1970s that civil engineers became aware of the issue of fatiguing or cracking that can occur in steel members of bridges and certainly that was after bridges like this were put in place now i'm not saying i'm not saying that that was necessarily the cause or one of the causes of this collapse and i i do urge people to be as patient as possible and to let this investigation go forward people will be patient but also the final what does someone do someone who travels across a bridge every day you have inspectors that come in every so often but you have people that every single day drive across a bridge if they do not feel that it is safe what can they do what should they do

well um you know the the twin cities are going to be dealing with that issue right now they've lost a major piece of their surface transportation infrastructure and people are going to have to 140 000 cars are going over that bridge every day and people are going to have to find a new way to to get around you saw in the oakland region recently there was a tanker fire that brought down two key ramps leading to the oakland bay bridge i think that affected over 200 000 motorists a day and for a month people had to to find other ways to get around mr dingy thank you for joining us this morning and by one account it takes 9.4 billion dollars a year for the next 20 years to fix the bridges that have already been diagnosed official it's startling the financial costs but of course right now we are focused on the human costs this bridge collapse you're looking live from chopper 5 over the scene i'm going to tell you again about this news coming from the white house we have heard that president bush will be talking about the bridge collapse coming up at 10 o'clock but we have some initial reports coming before he actually speaks

[02:32:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=9120s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=9120s)

before he actually speaks i'm just going to read to you a little bit of it and then there's also some new information the white house has said an inspection two years ago found structural deficiencies in the highway bridge that buckled last night here in minneapolis white house press secretary tony snow said the interstate 35w span rated 50 on a scale of 120 for structural stability now he says this doesn't mean there was a risk of failure but if an inspection report identifies deficiencies the state is responsible for taking corrective action now president bush first learned about the collapse while he was having dinner last night with the first lady tony snow said bush received preliminary details from his deputy chief of staff he did talk to governor pawlenty at 7 45 this morning to offer encouragement he said the governor was in the president's prayers offered any support that we can provide the president also called minneapolis mayor rt ryback to offer his condolences and prayers for the losses he acknowledged the economic cost of losing a main transportation artery then he also made sure that his transportation secretary flew to the scene he stressed this is according to tony snow the importance of projecting hope and optimism and offering any help now at this time though this is interesting there is no federal disaster declaration and tony snow said he did was not sure whether there had been a request for one so that that will be a question coming up here as we hear from the senators and we continue to check in with the governor as well as far as federal assistance because there is no federal disaster declaration at this time again you are looking at a live picture of the scene and bob mcnainy is in chopper five right now and bob you know we're just standing by waiting for these recovery efforts to begin and there's a level of frustration on the part of many because they want to get in there and you know get these families some answers well clearly they do but it's also a case if you don't want to make a horrible situation even worse

[02:34:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=9240s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=9240s)

horrible situation even worse um and that's one thing that they have to deal with that's we want to give you kind of a broader view from up here as you can see the layout of this part of town and a couple things to touch on rusty was was talking about the the overall traffic in the area and it's quite good on the interstates as well the other thing we've noticed that even the stone arch bridge the hennepin avenue bridge they're not terribly congested either so it truly does look like people are avoiding downtown minneapolis at least this portion of downtown minneapolis which is certainly certainly helpful back to the federal relief issue for a minute the president has dispatched his secretary of transportation mary peters the chairman of the national transportation safety board will be here as well with the gym team so the highest level government folks that deal with these types of things are in route to the twin cities you know we've been talking about the low level of the river now here's something that we were talking about up here and again it may be one of those odd factors that may have saved many many lives the fact that the river level is so low again normally the river there could be anywhere from say four or five maybe ten feet deeper than it is right now if it were six or eight feet deeper much of that collapse structure would be covered with water in other words the whole thing would have gone underwater uh and therefore the bridges the cars that you see sitting on top of the bridge might well have been submerged if this was a normal summer time and if the water was at its normal level so if nothing else perhaps the folks that were in those vehicles are alive today because their cars stayed out of

the water when they normally would not danita okay thank you bob appreciate that and again we're going to continue showing you this shot we feel it's very important to keep an eye on the latest that's going on give you this aerial view because we can get a better perspective you can see there people walking around on the 10th avenue bridge there now some new details to tell you about here our investigative team has been digging up some information crews from well i have uh

[02:36:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=9362s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=9362s)

well i have uh lost my script that uh told me what that what that information was okay i'm to have i'll get that back i'll get that investigative report for you in just a second we have breaking news out of washington abc news radio reporter ann compton just got out of a briefing with details on relief funding ann are you on the phone i am indeed veneta and we've just had a briefing with tony snow the president's press secretary as you must know by now the president has early this morning been on the phone first with the governor and then with the mayor expressing the nation's condolences and tony snow also told us about all the federal resources that they believe have already been dispatched to the twin cities not just the people you would expect like the army corps of engineers but the fbi the environmental protection agency and fema to help some of the victims can you talk ann a little bit about this report that he talked about that an inspection two years ago found structural deficiencies well clearly the white first thing the white house asked was my goodness this is a federal interstate highway weren't we watching this and uh what tony snow claims is that there is a system in place for federal interstates especially on the 1600 bridges on which reports have been filed and they say that that indeed on this particular bridge in a 2005 report two years ago when a federal safety check is done every two years the 2005 report noted some structural deficiencies and the way he described it was on a scale of 1 to 120 this bridge scored of 50 which means it may not have been quite the red flag that uh that it clearly seems to have needed to be and i apologize i missed a little bit of what you said at the beginning can you go over again just the financial

[02:38:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=9480s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=9480s)

can you go over again just the financial part of it what what we'll be getting as far as aid well the white house has not announced any aid at the moment they are eager to have teams on the ground looking at the big question that the governor and the mayor in their phone calls with the president this morning couldn't answer and that is what in the world would cause a rush hour catastrophe when you look at the video and the live shots you have of this bridge the way it has shredded and collapsed without warning the president asked what caused it and they don't have an answer so the president has dispatched not only our engineering teams from the army corps of engineers and from the department of transportation the secretary of transportation was on a plane early this morning to your area but they've also dispatched the fbi the environmental protection agency i'm sure to check on the river water and they have dispatched fema the federal emergency management administration which of course might be able to help with some of the victims all these people all these organizations dispatched yet there is no federal disaster declaration what warrants that kind of declaration that's an excellent question veneta because it is not instantaneous the governor turns to the federal government and lists what has happened and what the governor needs so that really will be triggered by what governor paulenti is able to tell the federal government unlike a hurricane which takes days to approach and a governor can have his or her information at hand this was so sudden and so stunning that i have a feeling it'll take the state government a few hours to put together exactly what it is they need uh in anticipation of that request the white house has dispatched not only these working teams these engineering teams but laura bush is coming to the twin cities now she was already scheduled to come to a youth conference tomorrow

[02:40:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=9601s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=9601s)

to come to a youth conference tomorrow in saint paul and also to address the republican national committee which is meeting there as you know because saint paul is going to be the site of the 2008 political convention so mrs bush is still coming in and she will be the eyes and ears for the president tomorrow when she visits

the site and as a national reporter covering the story this is a national and international story and it came to mind as soon as this happened was it terrorism and you're saying fbi agents are being sent here as well we they pretty much have said it's not terrorism here is there another reason why fbi would be sent here well it's another good question because just out of the abundance of caution one of the first things a federal government does in these days is what happens to something in the infrastructure could it have been some kind of sabotage now because the bridge was under repairs because there was no apparently no intelligence that the federal government or the department of homeland security had that this particular bridge might have been vulnerable they early on discounted the idea that this was a terrorist attack but you know you can't let something like this go without examining every single element of the events leading up to it and any other possible causes so i think the fact that certainly you have an active fbi office there in the twin cities and they would be on this case almost immediately the other question would be whether president bush himself would come to take a look at this and you know that's always a hard call for a president right now local and law enforcement and local resources are so uh under such pressure to react uh to what's gone on and certainly the recovery operation for those other cars in the water if anything a presidential presence might be if anything an unwelcome

[02:42:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=9720s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=9720s)

might be if anything an unwelcome distraction this quickly that's a good point just the traffic issues the security issues so you make a good point there and compton thank you so much for giving us this new information from washington dc anything else you want to add that i don't know the president is about to make a statement about this which i know you'll you all will be able to get uh immediately from us the president is meeting with his cabinet today because basically it's the end of the the work year congress leaves tomorrow for summer vacation he was going to urge his cabinet to get a few more things done but with this kind of cataclysmic story happening the president is going to use this moment right at the top of the hour to make comments on the on the bridge collapse certainly express the nation's condolences to the cities of minneapolis and saint paul to those victims who were so stunned by being caught up in this dramatic event and also the president really i think is going to have to address what the national response is for every commuter every american who drives over every highway and every bridge just on the way home from work wanting to know for that they're safe certainly makes us all think the next time we approach a bridge thank you so much thank you we appreciate it okay back to what i was originally telling you uh our investigative team has been digging up new information on this and they found that crews from progressive contractors based in saint michael were working on this bridge last night when it collapsed now we checked osha records and found nine safety violations over the past 10 years again they were working on it while it collapsed so this is something another tidbit of information will continue to gather more information on that and bring you as much as we can three workers were hospitalized one worker is still missing right now progressive contractor says all survivors are shaken up 18 people were working yesterday the statement says all of the survivors are severely shaken up the crews were about to pour the final two inches of concrete surface but

[02:44:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=9840s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=9840s)

two inches of concrete surface but before they could start pouring the bridge pouring it the bridge collapsed now they were not doing any work on the steel structure that supports the concrete deck so that's what's underneath supporting it once again 18 workers on the scene they were working on it one is missing three were hospitalized the rest treated at the scene very shaken up after going through this because they were on the bridge working on it when it happened we want to show you some of the pictures viewers have been sending us all night long and they do give us a different perspective from our chopper five topper five gives us a great angle but this is a wide shot of the bridge and you can see this is a tight shut in here too rusty gatenby is here can you turn on his mic here rusty talk about how many people use this it's a hundred thousand cars daily i heard yeah the 140 000 an estimate back in 2005 so a couple years ago they had that estimate so probably even more one of the survivors we heard from him and he said they were bumper to bumper at the time of the collapse only 15 miles per hour so that leads you to believe that yeah there were

quite a few cars on that bridge at the time of the collapse and what we see now with these photos and the live shots it does not look like the bumper-to-bumper numbers of cars visible so that makes you wonder okay how many are actually underwater and are not visible here's a live shot right now from traffic management center and in the the view from 35w in washington and this vehicle right there imagine being in that vehicle that's still there from yesterday right on the edge of that bridge collapse and difficult to make out but across the way there where the bridge is collapsed the other side same situation a handful of vehicles still perched there right on the edge where that bridge collapsed and we're seeing those images throughout the morning this is that 10th avenue bridge that crosses the mississippi but as of this morning that is closed to the public official vehicle traffic only using

[02:46:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=9960s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=9960s)

official vehicle traffic only using the 10th avenue bridge this morning 35 is shut down here's the barrier the view from 35 w and stinson shutdown you're going to be funneled off onto 280 is the main detour they're going to be putting some concrete barriers up so they can relieve the trucks that are right out there right now this morning helping people see the detour here's the view from 94 and 280 and the big surprise this morning is actually how nice the traffic has actually been moving uh how light the traffic has been coming into minneapolis from 35 w the south uh flow heading northbound here from 26 and that north flow heading southbound there's the view from county road c we haven't been seeing the big stop and go jammed up delays this morning people have either found another way to get in they're coming in later or my guess is they're just taking the day off taking that day of vacation traffic pulse can map out what's happening with the entire metro and except for 494 down there in the south metro as you as you head westbound we're not seeing any real delays at this time just a flash of yellow up there on highway 36 as you approach the 280 uh detour and there are the travel times and the speeds 94 eastbound from 394 to 280 you're moving about 37 miles per hour 494 there's that jam up 30 29 miles per hour now and the 35 w northbound from the crosstown to downtown minneapolis it takes you just six minutes and you're moving at 53 miles per hour and believe it or not that's been the case pretty much all morning long we have not seen really one jam up from the crosstown into downtown minneapolis this morning and benita typically on just any given day we'll see jam ups northbound 35w from the crosstown into downtown minneapolis so today of all days we were actually expecting those travel times to be doubled in the in the delays but not not this morning so it'll be interesting to see from now from this point forward what happens friday what happens next week what happens in the weeks to come

[02:48:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=10080s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=10080s)

week what happens in the weeks to come and how will detours be built and established i mentioned 280 the detour there what they've done is they've pretty much converted it to a freeway status the stop lights will be lit up green access to Broadway and County Road B you're not going to be able to do that they want to keep you moving on 280 and this morning 280 is zipping right along without a problem here's a view from our midway sky cam that is 280 the main detour from 35 w down to 94 and you can see those cars moving north and southbound plenty of room there and no real delays so it seems folks have found a way to avoid this part of downtown minneapolis this morning and again the question will be well where do we go from here we heard governor Pawlenty say that to rebuild this bridge probably a year maybe two maybe up to three years we'll have to deal with a way to move all those people up to 140 000 people a day across that mississippi area through minneapolis so this will be interesting to see what happens as far as uh i'm guessing they'll establish 280 more firmly as the main detour route but we'll see what they can do as far as opening up lanes we've seen in construction zones how they convert shoulders to actual additional lanes we'll see if that can be done for 280. haven't heard anything official yet it's way too early to let you know but the good news is at least for this morning traffic appears to be moving just fine through minneapolis you know rusty it's interesting you know we talk about 280 being a detour do you think snelling will really back up too eventually as people look for different routes what are what do you think will be some other bottlenecks probably i mean we certainly see that during the state fair time people jump off onto snelling haven't heard about huge delays on the side streets this morning we've been trying to get some information there most of the cameras and the

sensors we have are focused on the interstates but we've been getting reports that parts of university avenue a little more crowded this morning but uh not the gigantic delays that we were expecting but yeah that'll be interesting to see if

[02:50:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=10201s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=10201s)

yeah that'll be interesting to see if snelling becomes a route the other routes that people are asked to consider were highways as far away as highway 100 or even in the st paul side 35e we did see some extra slowdowns on 694 and 35e briefly this morning but again nothing really too unusual so we'll see what happens in the days to come okay you'll be following it for us thanks a lot rusty some new information for you here congressman jim oberstar who is the chairman of the house transportation and infrastructure committee he's well known for his experience in transportation issues says he will introduce legislation to direct at least 250 million dollars to minnesota to help replace the bridge that collapsed in minneapolis keep in mind he is the chairman of the house transportation and infrastructure committee very again well known about issues related to transportation so this means a lot that he says he wants at least 250 million dollars for rebuilding now this morning we have been showing you this video surveillance video that cnn has been broadcasting let's take a look at it again this is slow motion of the bridge collapsing and you can see it right there where the water splashes smoke debris comes up and then you can see that partial bridge there and then it comes down again and when we were hearing from witnesses they did mention that it was they dropped and then they dropped again so you know just when they thought maybe it was over it kept happening and you can see some of the cars still moving on that and into that uh splashing and then the smoke and the debris as well it's very it can be disturbing to watch when you think that there uh an estimated 50 cars on that bridge as that as this is happening right there in slow motion and it just happened in seconds uh people 605 last night sometimes you just lose perspective of that we keep reporting on the facts and figures of this story but there's just so many people so many emotions

[02:52:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=10320s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=10320s)

emotions involved with this story bob and you almost have to take a step back and just think about all the people who are affected and may not even know that they've been affected because honestly we don't know who was on that bridge and so we may not know and we may find out later that it was someone we knew oh absolutely and that's the direct effect i'll tell you what the indirect is the indirect's watching the little kids like i had at my house last night who sit down and turn the tv on and they can't believe what they're seeing and this is the kind of enormous tragedy that that hits everybody doesn't matter how old you are you can't believe what you're seeing um and speaking what we're seeing is that is those cars and we're starting to see a little bit of activity down on the ground a little foot activity from time to time we see maybe half a dozen or so people kind of milling around don't they don't look like that you know it's not like they're crawling under anything but they're certainly out there you see those guys with the yellow helmets we saw some other folks with reflective vests on as well so there is uh there is a little bit of activity down there finally after uh after a pretty quiet morning the other thing that strikes you is look at that that is a bridge that's laying flat right on top of a walkway a pathway or right on top of that grass and that's supposed to be maybe 40 feet above that location i mean if you're walking down that path where those uh where those lighting towers are you could just step right up to a bridge that just yesterday morning was 40 feet above you so again that gives you an idea just how far down this whole thing is falling if we keep going to the left a little bit there by the school bus you see a few other folks there obviously they're not engaged in any mass search or anything at the moment but there is still a bit more activity on the ground than we've seen for the last couple of hours bonita okay thank you bob i'm gonna uh break away from you for a second here bob we're gonna keep your shot up but we're gonna talk to tom houser who is on the phone this is good news tom as far as representative oberstar requesting this 250 million dollars uh yes he'll make the request and my my guess is uh it wouldn't be much of a problem and

[02:54:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=10442s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=10442s)

uh it wouldn't be much of a problem and another bit of money that the bush administration has offered i don't know if you've talked about this or not is uh five million dollars to help with uh rerouting of uh highways and transportation around uh what will obviously be a monumental bottleneck for quite some time and uh we hope to hear from governor poleni and senators klobuchar and coleman as well as possibly representative keith ellison they have just pulled up in a metro transit bus here at the corner of southeast 6th avenue and main street right down especially a block or two down from st anthony maine and they're going to have a news conference but apparently they are being delayed now by the fact that the president is apparently about to speak and so they want to wait until he is done so it may be a little a while and then i just want to bring you one update too on the the death toll are you still reporting uh the four number of data yes we are we've been reporting that uh i have some insight uh on why that went from seven to four uh and as we feared it's not necessarily good news what they are doing now is only releasing the the four uh total where they've actually recovered the bodies a source tom i'm going to interrupt you right now president bush is coming out the door right now he's expected to make his announcement any minute let's go to that right now and let's get a shot of it one of the things we discussed was the terrible situation there in minneapolis we talked about the fact that the bridge collapsed and that we in the federal government must respond and respond robustly to help the people there not only recover but to make sure that lifeline of activity that bridge gets rebuilt as quickly as possible to that end secretary peters is in minneapolis

[02:56:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=10560s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=10560s)

secretary peters is in minneapolis as well as federal highway administrator kapka i spoke to governor palente and mayor ryback this morning i told them that the secretary would be there i told them we would help with rescue efforts but also told them how much we are in prayer for those who suffered and i thank our fellow my fellow citizens for holding up those who are suffering right now in prayer we also talked about in the cabinet meeting talked about the status of important pieces of legislation before the congress we spent a fair amount of time talking about the fact that how disappointed we are that congress hasn't sent any spending bills to my desk by the end of this week members are going to be leaving for their month-long august recess and by the time they will return there will be less than a month before the end of the fiscal year on september the 30th and yet they hadn't passed uh one of the 12 spending bills that they're required to pass if congress doesn't pass the spending bills by the end of the fiscal year cabinet secretaries report that the departments may be unable to move forward with urgent priorities for our country it just doesn't have to be this way the democrats won last year's election fair and square and now they control the calendar for bringing up bills in congress they need to pass each of these spending bills individually on time in a fiscally responsible way the budget i've sent to congress fully

[02:58:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=10682s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=10682s)

the budget i've sent to congress fully funds america's priorities it increases discretionary spending by 6.9 percent my cabinet secretaries assure me that this is adequate to meet the needs of our nation unfortunately democratic leaders in congress want to spend far more their budget calls for nearly 22 billion dollars more in discretionary spending next year alone these leaders have tried to downplay that figure yesterday one called this increase and i quote a very small difference from what i proposed only in washington can 22 billion dollars be called we're going to break away from president bush it looks like he has addressed offered his words of comfort and prayer and possible assistance uh to us in this to the state of minnesota in this crisis that we are in with the 35w bridge collapse we're going to go to bob mcnaaney live over the scene bob i see a boat out there a little more activity from our vantage point it looks like the sheriff's department henry county sheriff department in there and and as we pull out just again a little bit there there's a little bit activity that we've seen over the course of the last several hours just in that immediate area where they're you know essentially on the south end of the of the damaged bridge area where they're you know trolling back and forth and as we push down on the side you can also see that uh there are several people on foot and this is this is one of the things that we've been talking about is how long does it take how long will it take to get things going well look at that scene right there i mean you've got a pancaked roadway and you have people

that are looking at it and just a few dozen yards away you've got guys in a boat looking at the same type of structure so in a sense this is an amphibious recovery effort which has got to make this even more complicated as you see there are some more individuals that are set up uh on beam by beam by beam

[03:00:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=10800s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=10800s)

set up uh on beam by beam by beam and one of the important things uh it looks like they're doing uh one of the critical things that we've been hearing for the last many hours is that understanding the structural integrity of what's left um and really until they assess that you can't go in there and and they haven't gone in there and they won't go in there uh and that's clearly what they're doing now bob so then it is a situation that they have seen that it's structurally sound enough for a boat to go out there basically is that what you're saying well what i'm saying is it looks like there's still a section assessing the structural side of it on the ground and the boat is pretty well free and clear now i'm sure that they're ready to get out of there if they needed to but the the boats have been in the water for many many hours uh it and obviously it's independent of the structure itself but those folks obviously on the ground we're still assessing uh what was going on you know uh earlier we heard from washington about uh some of the various agencies coming out the fbi the epa i'll tell you we can see the slick in the uh in the river it's it's a little difficult right now to see you can see some circulation down there but over the course of the morning from time to time we've seen a pretty healthy slick of petroleum uh down river that's one of the issues that's going to have to be dealt with obviously it's very minor secondary if you will okay bob i'm going to interrupt you here thank you so much we're going to send it out to tom houser we've been standing by for the senators to speak tom you move now into a day and there will be one human story after the others that will tell the tale of really what happened at that one horrible moment it's appropriate now that we're surrounded by tremendous support in this city and we're deeply deeply grateful for the fact that we have our congressional leaders and our congressmen congressman ellison our senators senator klobuchar and senator coleman obviously our governor who's been here throughout this call to express his sympathies and to talk about his strong desire to move forward with replacing what he

[03:02:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=10921s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=10921s)

move forward with replacing what he appropriately categorized as the most important transportation link into the city we're also deeply gratified that secretary peterson you'll be hearing from from in a moment is also here and i think that's a very very strong show of support by the federal government to the city of minneapolis and to the state of minnesota as we look forward to moving ahead with with the recovery there are a series of tactical issues that we'll be talking through and i'll be introducing people as we go through that how we're dealing with recovery how we're looking at the issue of the the bridge and how it's rebuilt how we're looking at the issue of what happened and why but i also call on people to remember that this is something that will not be about one news cycle or a couple of days it is really about families who are now only beginning to understand the depth of what it means to have a loved one who is no longer here or to have a loved one whose whereabouts you don't know about and so uh it is important for us all to have uh contain compassion and sustain compassion that will stick with us for the long period of time that it will need for this community to heal as we've talked this morning we've began with a meeting in my office at city hall and then we moved to the site where we were able to see the scene i think going back onto the scene this morning after having been there last night reminds you that these are horrible images but within each of those images is a story that car you see tangled in the wreckage is someone's cousin or brother or husband and one story after the other unfolds as you look at that and i think we have to remember that that there are some tremendous stories that we'll be hearing uh thank god this wasn't worse and thank also uh the incredible team of uh people who responded to this disaster it is i became mayor shortly after 9 11 and was plunged immediately into the

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was plunged immediately into the emergency preparedness business i was so gratified that there was already a great team in place in minneapolis and it grew significantly the fema folks are here and we thank them for the fact that shortly after i became mayor they flew 70 of us out to mount weather where we went through preparedness training and that training was the backbone of the training we put in place immediately that was put in place at the emergency preparedness center underneath city hall there's an incredible unsung hero who you haven't seen because he's been on the job his name is rocco forte bronco is the assistant city coordinator of the city and who leads our emergency preparedness he remains there on the point as he has been throughout this entire uh incident but he's also remained on the point as has our entire team throughout the past few years as we've built and improved on our preparedness training we can never be prepared for something as horrendous as this but we are gratified for the incredible courage of the employees of the city of minneapolis of the county the state and the federal officials who have helped us all of them have shown courage and compassion at a time when we need huge doses of both but we also have done planning and i think we will have to do much more as we move forward as we move forward on the issue of how to how to address the transportation issues we'll be meeting in the in the coming days with uh employers and other people who need to get people to work those issues are certainly uh in the forefront we'll be however in the short term be spending more time dealing with the recovery and on the very immediate issues of personnel in front of us we have with us as i say a large group of people and i'll i'll turn it over to them i think what i'd like to do if i could would be to to start with the governor and then um move through uh some of the folks who've been on the point and then ask secretary peters and then the uh the elected officials who've uh graciously joined us from washington to join us so i'd like to turn to the governor

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i'd like to turn to the governor well good morning this is obviously a horrific incident that takes your breath away and and sinks your heart and in the horror of this incident there is a silver lining and that shines through and that is the goodness of minnesotans and you saw it in the tremendous response of the first responders and emergency responders a tremendous outpouring of support and resources and personnel and equipment they did a tremendous job and i think saved a lot of lives that were at risk in the moments and hours after the bridge initially collapsed we also see goodness in bystanders and good samaritans who weren't wearing a uniform but ran to the problem ran to the crisis ran to the challenge and the danger to be helpful another reflection of minnesotans goodness and so it's in this horror and in this tragedy you see a silver lining of the goodness of the people of minnesota also obviously the data and the general accounts today are going to become much more personal you're going to see the identities perhaps in the coming days of people who have lost their lives in this tragedy have been injured the accounts of how that happened and the pain and the burden of that is going to be visited upon families in minnesota and we want them to know that the city and the state and the federal officials have them and others all across minnesota and all across the country are praying for those families and are thinking of them in these hours and days and months of tragedy and and very very difficult times in terms of the response from here obviously as the mayor indicated the effort now is on recovery that's going to have to take place in concert with the ntsb investigation as you'll see in just a moment the leader of the ntsb investigation team and the ntsb overall is here he will provide some comments but what he is indicating is their investigation will take place

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will take place they will be treating this area and the area of the bridge essentially as an investigation scene or in some respects a crime scene so they want to be careful about how and when things are moved in addition to the recovery effort and then once that is completed then of course the debris removal process will kick in and we've been in concert with the federal officials i want to thank our congressional delegation senators klobuchar and senator coleman and secretary peters and congressman ellison and all the other members of the congressional delegation they have been wonderful as partners in this and the secretary will describe more in just a moment of the federal government's offer of support and help and its significant and its prompt and we appreciate that but of course that once the debris removal takes place that will allow us then to begin the rebuilding process of this bridge and we'll get to that in due course but it's going to be a

significant effort senator pogo miller the leader of the minnesota senate and speaker kelleher are here as well and of course we will do whatever it takes to move this along on an emergency a basis and then finally of course there's going to be a lot of disruption in terms of traffic patterns economic activity downtown and beyond so we are already working on and deploying alternative plans for transportation transit and the like that will hopefully alleviate some of that in the coming weeks and months but with that i guess we'll turn it over to the secretary of transportation we're glad that she's here so promptly secretary mary peters first and foremost on behalf of president bush vice president cheney and and the whole administration our sympathy goes out to this community to those who lost loved ones to those who were injured you are all in our thoughts and prayers we also want to share the gratitude of those who helped with the rescue and recovery efforts what we saw many of us on television last night from washington d.c was a community not just of emergency responders but as the governor said as the mayor said normal people who came to this

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said normal people who came to this scene and helped rescue others and i'm sure saved lives in the process of doing that i am here today on behalf of the president to offer the full support of the federal government particularly the u.s department of transportation as we respond to this emergency i plan to provide a support role and to expedite federal financial assistance as governor palente and may and the mayor have indicated as they lead this response effort this recovery period of this important incident i've asked our bridge and our engineering staff from the federal highway administration to provide their full support to the state and to the national transportation safety board as they analyze what happened here my experts my staff including federal highway administrator rick kapka will stay here on ground to provide that kind of assistance we fully understand what happened and we can take we will take every step possible to ensure that something like this does not happen again i've spoken with the d.o.t inspector general last night he will monitor all of the investigations and then decide very quickly what kind of short-term actions need to be taken i've also made it very clear to the governor to senator coleman to senator flochevar and senator ellis congressman ellison that we are prepared to provide financial and technical assistance needed to keep the both the road and the river traffic moving and to get this bridge rebuilt safely and as soon as possible we will employ every method that we have at our spot at disposal to do that today i am making an initial distribution of five million dollars from the department this money will be available today to help restore the traffic flow to clear the debris to set up detours and to begin the repair work we stand ready to make all of the additional appropriate funds available as the state state completes its assessment of the total damage and the ultimate cost to replace this bridge d.o.t will absolutely lock arms with local government officials and be a partner in the rebuilding of this vital commerce and and commuting corridor here the sad memory of this tragedy will never fade but we're going to make

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will never fade but we're going to make sure that last night's damage and debris will become a thing of the past will rebuild this bridge repair it and re-establish it in this community as quickly as we can governor thank you so much thank you thank you man why don't we turn to the senators thank you madam secretary yesterday was a day of horror for the city of minneapolis and for the state of minnesota and there will be many difficult days ahead as we begin to go through the recovery process so i hope that we continue to hold those who have suffered loss from this horrific tragedy in our prayers i think it's very very important there are still some very tough days that lie ahead as we move into the recovery phase i i have to tell you that as a united states senator and senator klobuchar and congressman ellison i also said the same thing really proud of this community and the way they responded uh general mark rosenker is here and he is the chairman of the national transportation safety board i know he'll speak with you as part of this group after a discussion later but he talked to me as they came upon the scene about the acts of heroism from the first responders acts of heroism from private citizens and the impact that had on saving lives so uh we're just proud of of this community and the way they responded to this this terrible terrible tragedy uh a couple of thoughts on what we can do at the federal level secretary peters talked about five million dollars and that's just to kind of get some things moving one of the realities is that money technically is not available for bus service we need bus

service and the first city secretary said is we're going to waive that don't worry about that rule there's a hundred million dollars that is available for rebuilding it's 100 from the federal government in the first 180 days the fund where that money comes from it has money in it but it may well be used for other projects and i'll let senator klobuchar talk more about that but both in the house and senate side we will moving forward to make sure that that money is available we will rebuild and the federal government will be a full partner with the folks at the local

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full partner with the folks at the local level to make sure we rebuild and the last point ultimately then to find out is what happened what what caused this this unbelievable almost incomprehensible tragedy chairman rosenker was here in the early morning hours his team has already begun to assemble they're on the job they will go through the process of figuring out how the security it may take a little while but we need to understand that we need to understand that so to make sure that this type of tragedy never happens anywhere again and so from the federal level we are full partners i i even had a conversation i got a call of condolence from the head of the small business administration director steve preston said to me senator my heart goes out to you and the people of minnesota let us know what you need so we are committed to respond senator klobuchar and i will work hand in hand to coordinate those resources but again i'll i want to reiterate the need to keep the people of minneapolis minnesota in our prayers because the horrors will continue to play out and then to express my appreciation and and admiration for the folks who responded the way they did i was the mayor of saint paul on 9 11 and i remember how unprepared we were then in terms of communication and then i watched folks go through training you hope that day never comes we have to use it the people of minneapolis use it yesterday and they use it in an incredible way and they showed great leadership and in the end uh they they save lives and so again i expressed my appreciation and admiration to the folks who've been on the scene for the job that they're doing thank you mayor thank you governor thank you all of you all the people of minnesota and our prayers and thoughts are with the victims and their families and those who are in the hospital when i watched what unfold last night i was so proud i was so proud to be a part of this state the whole world watched as a city in this state came together you saw the woman diving over and over

[03:16:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=11760s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=11760s)

you saw the woman diving over and over again into the water to look for victims when we got here today driving down 35 w there was already a billboard up already a billboard telling people to take another route you open up the paper says 25 extra buses people came together faced with the tragedy i remember i was telling the sheriff that i remember that we practiced this when i was the prosecutor the county attorney we would have these run-throughs of what we would do in a disaster and we never knew that would actually happen and it did a bridge in america just shouldn't fall down and that's why we have called for this investigation i'm very pleased that the national transportation safety board chair is already here conducting that investigation getting the evidence that we need we're going to have to be patient with that investigation it's going to take time because we have to get to the bottom of this the last thing i wanted to talk about is the work that we need to do in washington i've already talked with senator reid and senator durbin and senator schumer and senator patty murray who's head of the appropriations transportation committee in the united states senate she actually sent a staff member with us today we are going to work to make sure that the resources are there to not only help with the immediate recovery but for the long-term rebuilding of this bridge as senator coleman mentioned there are caps that go in place i think it's 100 million dollars if necessary we will work to get a law passed to waive that cap a bridge in america just shouldn't fall down we are going to go back there today and meet with our fellow senators work with congressman overstar who fortunately heads up the committee that deals with us work with congressman ellison to make sure that the resources are there from the federal government and again i just wanted to thank the people of my state i

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people of my state i always have been proud and i always knew that we come together like no one else but last night the whole world was able to see it once again we learned that we really do need each other that despite our different walks of life that when tragedy hits we come together and i'm so proud to be a minnesotan today because we've shown our compassion for each other we've shown that compassionate people and responsible government can bring about results for people and so i just want to say that i want to i just want to say that i am so proud of the people who jumped into the water and who went the extra mile to rescue and save our citizens and i just want to say that we are all we are all at loss for the families who've lost their family members in this terrible tragedy their loss is our loss and we embrace that and i just want to say that i've been in direct contact with our chairman oberstar of the transportation committee he is very concerned and spoke eloquently on the house floor about this tragedy and about how heartfelt it was along with congressman ramstad congressman congresswoman bachmann congresswoman mccullum and then also congressman peterson and klein were also very concerned and expressed their their solidarity with us here today and so we will be working together responsive government compassionate people to talk about rescue and recovery but also rebuilding and also finding out what happened we're gonna face this tragedy bravely as we always do so again it's good to be a minnesotan today and it's good to be an american today and we have to stand together and we will be successful and we will look back at this tragedy with sorrow but also with a sense that if we come together we can come through anything thank you i want to uh

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want to uh want to also acknowledge senate majority leader larry pogelmiller and and speaker of the house margaret anderson kelleher who have both been with us and have given us strong support as we move through this with the state i'd like to now call forward the chairman and the chief so we can talk through some of the issues of the uh that we've been doing on the investigation thank you very much senators congressman madam secretary governor i'm sorry i have to be in minneapolis on such a sad tragic occasion many years ago i lived in minneapolis my dad's from minneapolis and i know the greatness of the people of minnesota and the people of minneapolis i think it was displayed in courage and heroism last night and i think it's indicative of the same kind of courage and heroism that we see in the united states from the east coast to the west coast and on behalf of my colleagues at the national transportation safety board i want to offer our most sincere condolences to those that lost loved ones last night and our thoughts and our prayers are for a speedy recovery of those who were injured the national transportation safety board launched a go team late last night and early this morning to minneapolis consisting of 19 investigators they will represent a number of disciplines from bridge engineering to materials highway engineering survivability survival factors human factors we have our family assistance department here as well and we're even bringing in the head of our materials laboratory from washington he will be here at one o'clock this afternoon this investigation has already begun and we will begin to try to give you as much information as we can get we will do a at least one and maybe two briefings a day as we learn and as this investigation

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as we learn and as this investigation progresses but with that said this will be a complex investigation there are engineering issues that we're going to have to determine there are materials issues which we're going to be studying and they don't come quickly first thing we must do is recover the pieces and after we recover these pieces of the bridge we will begin actually trying to reassemble them not in a way where it's actually standing but kind of in a jigsaw puzzle way flat so we can look at the various parts of this bridge and understand what made it fall down last night with that i want to turn it back over to the mayor or the chief mark rosenker m-a-r-k r-o-s-e-n k-e-r and i'm chairman of the national transportation safety board and we're out of washington dc chief did you want to say something sir it's been about 16 hours just a couple hours ago we we sent home the officers that initially responded to this incident from all over all over the state we were being relieved by officers that are from all over the metro area and it's it's amazing to see the response that we have i was down at the scene just about an hour and a half ago it is still a tremendously dangerous scene we have several individuals at that scene that that were not recovered there are some unbelievable testimonials and stories involving a number of those people and i can't get into the specifics because we

have notifications and so forth to make but people that were pinned people that were partly crushed that were told emergency workers to say hello say goodbye so it's it was amazing amazing scene and it's going to be a very very dangerous scene for some time

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dangerous scene for some time recovery has started boats are on the water but we also have people i can say on land that that need to be recovered and recovered safely so so we ask for patience we appreciate all the support that we're getting from throughout this state and this will be this will be a long process and so thank you i think chief dolan pretty well the operations side of this my name is jim clack i'm the fire chief here in minneapolis i just want to reiterate what chief dolan said we've got tremendous response from all of our mutual aid partners in the metro area the state of minnesota has been right there with us from the first hour of this incident the federal government's obvious that they're here to support us senators and representatives and officials from the federal government i would i would say also that the training and the equipment that we've got uh over the past six years since 9 11 has played a critical role in the success so far of this incident this has gone better than any large-scale incident i've been at and i'm very proud of the men and women of the minneapolis fire department the men and women of the police department and all the other agencies the sheriff's office all of them came together and did a great job and they're continuing to do a good job i do want to reiterate also what was said and that this will not be a quick recovery we're going to take it easy we're going to keep people safe we're going to keep you informed as we go along but thank you for all all you do and thanks to the citizens of minneapolis for all they did to help us it was a coordinated and a great effort so far with that we want to open it up for questions i do also want to acknowledge that another person here who's been been extraordinarily helpful is jan mcdaniel from the red cross

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mcdaniel from the red cross and they've been uh remarkable uh one of the things that was especially remarkable is not only did the red cross infrastructure fall into place but there were a significant number of volunteers who came forward and uh their work is is uh is very very important as have all those who step forward to get blood as well with that why don't we open up for questions governor plenty of the white house said uh this morning that this bridge in 2005 scored a 50 out of 120 on structural integrity and that it's up to the state to bring the bridge uh up to a better standard than that should the state could the state have done something more i'll let the secretary address that i will as well tom yeah let me address that that what that rating of 50 means is that the bridge should be repaired should perhaps be considered for replacement at some point in the future it was by no means an indication that this bridge was not safe had that been the case mndot governor pawlenty would have shut this bridge down immediately so none of those ratings indicated that there was there was any kind of danger here simply says we need to schedule this bridge for rehabilitation and that was in the future program for mndot governor as the secretary indicated this morning tom that because of the assessment by the national officials of in structural have structural needs that is not the same as it needs to be closed down or torn down and replaced immediately the inspections that took place as we're told from mndot in 2005 and 2006 had in mind and incorporated that ranking had the inspection take place with that in mind and with that in mind indicated that the bridge was continued it could continue to be used and potentially replaced in the future but there was no call by anyone that we're aware of that said it should be immediately closed or immediately replaced it was more of a monitor inspect maintain and potentially replace it in the future and i believe the secretary concurs with them mr rosenker as you've seen is there any indication from what you've seen can you determine

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seen can you determine what might have happened no it is clearly much too early in the initial stages of this investigation to have any idea of what happened we we understand there's some video out there that we want to get hold of and enhance we will also be putting out a witness telephone number if anybody has any either still photos or any other videos that may well be out there we clearly would like to get hold of that for

our analysis somewhere we will be taking it to a place where we can put together a span as long as this again we'll be looking for critical elements the entire bridge may not be put back together we'll do some initial investigation while it is in place at this point and then decide what we need to do to begin the process of bringing it somewhere to understand what happened chief you talked about the recovery efforts both on land and on the water can you give any idea of how many numbers when it comes to recovery at this point [Music] i'll just say that we know that of several people who are pinned or trapped and uh we were at the time when we left them this deceased so uh and i'll just leave it at that it's uh uh so and and we also know there are several vehicles us that that were in the water that we we haven't gotten to yet so but but as far as pinder trap there are several people and i'll just say that and she said some of these people said goodbye what were they saying there's an individual case where an individual was severely obviously severely injured and was talking to medical personnel and was able to say his goodbyes to his family and it would be passed on how difficult was that for your officers well it's extremely if you see the scene there the officers had some of the officers

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the officers had some of the officers actually had to cross girders swim part of the piece to get to that central area it was a very very difficult scene very very chaotic and it was not just my officers it was fire ambulance personnel medical personnel so it was an all-out effort but when you see that scene and you see the slabs that are hanging there you realize just being near that those slabs is dangerous and they're crawling over them so tremendous like i say tremendous courage tom i just wanted to add one other thing in addition to the 2005 and 2006 inspections there's a 2007 inspection that was partially completed and the focus of that inspection as we're told is whether the bridge should be rehabilitated or replaced in the future and that was going to be completed after the construction that was currently underway on the bridge was done so the final report and final review was going to be in september of this year so the in addition to the 2005 and 2006 inspection there's a partial 2007 inspection that has at its focus when in the future to replace the bridge should be rehabilitated or completely torn down but it was a future oriented inspection with that goal in mind are there other bridges in the state that have a worse structural stability rating than this one tom i'm told that under the national rating system they use the term structurally impaired there are 70 to 80 000 bridges nationally that have that designation and again according to the secretary that doesn't mean they all need to be closed or torn down it means they need some level of maintenance or inspection or oversight or action and if there is an indication that they need to be closed down of course they would there's one category even lower than that called functionally obsolete and there's uh 70 000 or so bridges nationally in that category so all around the country and around the state there are bridges that have these designations well that's why we don't have an exact number for you now but we can get that to you today tom i just want if i can just add one

[03:32:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=12720s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=12720s)

tom i just want if i can just add one one little thing just truly by by circums uh uh not planned but uh i introduced a bill center clover trust co-author of it establishing a national commission on infrastructure requiring a commission to be established to report back to congress in 2009 on the status of bridges and other infrastructure and plans for rehabilitation so there has always been concern about bridge repair but senator klobuchar and i are working on a bill that i think will probably get hotline now through but that was introduced before this tragedy saying that we as a nation need to take a close look and have in place a plan that's what the bill calls for a plan for a 5 10 15 year renovation of our infrastructure this is clearly aging one thing i just wanted to add one thing you know we don't know what caused this you've heard from the safety transportation board but this is certainly a reminder that we need funding to keep our bridges strong and that we need emergency funding when tragedies happen like how many this in minnesota governor are fall under the structural deficiency we can get you that number i asked that because congressman overstar indicates this morning it may be as many as 40 percent uh that is the number that's applied nationally nationally in that category plus keep in mind there's that other category that i mentioned as well so in minnesota we will have some percent of that however when compared to the other states we are you know higher ranked in terms of bridge than most other states i'd like the secretary to address that as well here in minnesota only three

percent of the bridges fall into one of those two categories and and so that is different than it is nationally in fact minnesota has a very good bridge inspection program let me explain a little bit about what those two terms mean functionally obsolete means that there are new standards available today that if we were building a new bridge today we would do things differently and so that means that when this bridge is repaired upgraded or something like that you need to incorporate those new features or certainly if you replace that bridge but it does not mean that that bridge is not safe to drive

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that that bridge is not safe to drive over the other category structurally deficient as i said a while ago means there's a deficiency that needs to be addressed at some point in the future it's monitored and in no way did minnesota d.o.t not do everything that was appropriate everything that we know is appropriate to do to monitor bridges and in fact as i said their inspection program is better in this state than in other states but clearly we need to understand what happened here i think senator klobuchar said it very well bridges in america should not fall down so we need to get to the bottom of this and that is absolutely my top priority the presidents both senators the mayor the governor and all of the officials here including ntsb of course to get to the bottom of that is that is that video is that video video from the traffic cameras that are positioned on the ends of the bridges it's from the lock and down um we have not gotten the chief is set telling me again i have not seen it we know it exists we're going to bring it back to washington also do some enhancement um chief tells us from the from the damn condom it's from under uh we're going to take a look and hopefully their other videos as well many times as i say when we open it up to witnesses it is amazing what you end up having uh being provided to us that becomes quite helpful we've covered your investments i should mention also just at this point that we're in the midst of a program with the federal government to install safety cameras on bridges throughout the city of minneapolis and that's something that is not in place but we are working on right now we've covered chairman rosen for your investigations of plane pressure specifically all around the country and know how you and your team operate in the reports that you give is this kind of bridge collapse going to be more difficult to pinpoint a reason than in some of those plane crashes that you covered each accident is very unique many are extremely complex some will take years in this case what we're hoping to be able to do is bring together as many of these parts put them together as i said quite similarly to a jigsaw puzzle and at that point when we have all of

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and at that point when we have all of the parts recovered i believe it will be somewhere close to a year before we get our final report out but we will do this in a comprehensive thorough yet still expeditious manner but there will be no shortcuts when the report is delivered when it's presented to the board for determination of probable cause it will be an outstanding report i am confident of that as all the rest of our reports we're going to break away from this news conference you've been listening to city leaders county leaders our state leaders the governor the two senators just a recap here real quickly senators klobuchar and senator coleman are going to be working with governor pelendi to make the official request for federal funding and they're going to be working and hoping to secure this funding from what we've learned states are eligible to receive up to 100 million in emergency relief funds per year but congress can expand funding beyond the 100 million with special legislation both senators plan to introduce necessary legislation in the senate to allow for increased funding beyond the 100 million dollar cap we've also learned that representative jim oberstar who is the chairman of the transportation committee in the house is asking for 250 million so there are federal officials on the scene assessing the damage and of course these requests will be made as we've been saying all morning we know some people are still missing after this tragic collapse we've created an area on our website where you can send us email and pictures about your missing loved ones just log onto kstp.com and you'll see a link right on our page you can send us those emails pictures anything you want to tell us about your missing loved one maybe we can help you reconnect if maybe they didn't happen to be on the bridge they were somewhere else and you've just lost track of them if you want to be able to reconnect come to our website kstp.com bob mcnaaney has is over the scene right now in chopper5 and during that news conference bob we were showing a barge and can you just tell us

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showing a barge and can you just tell us about some of the activity that's been going on in the in the past hour here yeah that's the barge that we showed you earlier this morning it was about a mile or so down as you can see as we push in it is filled now with equipment some small boats and uh several several men that uh and presumably women that are going to be uh working at the uh at the base of the of the debris field if you will if we pull out a little bit you can see them on the barge and as we pull out you can see that they've made the trek up the river and they're just a short distance away from the actual collapse site itself so clearly they're going to be uh they're going to be some of the people that are involved and you see another watercraft down there as well to touch on a couple of things if you will that the chairman uh the ntsb rosenkirk uh said uh very interesting stuff he you know he pointed out that it is way too early to tell what happened and that they will ride it re try to re build this structure in at least some measure to figure out what happened which is exactly what they do in aviation accidents which is exactly uh the area that most people are used to hearing the nt ntsb in so what they'll do is they'll get what they can get it and they'll rebuild it and it should be important to point out as well that uh the chairman said that this will be a very thorough report a very comprehensive report and that is the ntsb style i can tell you this much there has never been an ntsb investigation of an aircraft crash for example where the cause was repeated in other words if they found something that was structurally wrong on an airplane that caused it to crash or they found that there was a particular training that was being used that caused it to crash it was determined it was corrected and that same accident has never happened again which is extraordinary in terms of a safety record and and you take that and apply it to the the bridge uh the bridge business what they'll be looking at is what happened here and how do we make sure that all of the literally hundreds of thousands of bridges in this country uh don't incur the same kind of tragedy

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uh don't incur the same kind of tragedy another point the senator coleman talked about perhaps fast-tracking legislation that is being already proposed about working on infrastructure don't get anyone wrong that's going to happen you know washington and this can happen this type of tragedy can happen in anyone's congressional district they don't want that to happen so this will no doubt become a very uh fast-track national issue because frankly there are what is a more than almost a half a billion bridges in this country that need to be checked at one point or another so again what what you're seeing now below again is sort of the the beginning stages of uh moving men manpower and equipment in uh for the recovery effort but we did also hear chief dolan say that it's quote a tremendously dangerous scene down there uh they are not gonna they are not gonna rush this they are quite confident it sounds that there are no survivors trapped in any pockets and they don't want to have a greater loss of life veneta bob i wanted to lean on you for some perspective jim oberstar representative oberstar chairman of the transportation committee you've come across and interviewed him had contact with him many times because of your coverage of aviation issues this is a key obviously chairman of this transportation committee he's going to have a lot of weight he's asking for 250 million oh absolutely he uh you know people talk about transportation they usually think about airplanes and and rail and things like that but frankly that's a committee that has a tremendous amount of power and has a tremendous amount of influence because it is talking about the roadways and the bridges again in every congressional district in this country that committee uh tries to get the ear of the appropriations folks the people with the checkbook and a guy like jim oberstar has been there so long he tends to get the checks that he asks for because he knows his stuff he's been around the block he knows specifically what to ask for he he does his homework his staff knows his homework and he is well respected up on capitol hill when jim oberstar our member of his

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when jim oberstar our member of his committee goes to the white house and says we need this fixed or goes to congress and says we need money for this important program it tends to happen because he's not a guy that cries wolf he doesn't he's not a pork belly congressman in the eyes of people in washington this is an

issue that he has been working very hard and long on the idea of bridges and infrastructure it's an area that he has seen uh over the years uh basically bridges to fall into disrepair and it's an area that i know i've talked to him about he thinks it's a critical part of our nation's security it's a nation a critical part of our nation's economy that frankly has been neglected over the last many years so yeah this is something that is uh near and dear to congressman oberstar's agenda and uh and no doubt venita again because of the potential scope for problems in this country this will be a fast track issue okay thank you bob you know it's interesting too that you mentioned that he has proposed legislation related to the senator coleman even said in that news conference he and senator klobuchar have proposed legislation related to infrastructure and bridges even before this happened so obviously this was on the radar of our minnesota representatives and senators before this even happened we're going to go over to chris keating who is at the diving staging area and bob was mentioning earlier chris that they're not rushing this what are you seeing there i would agree with that for sure venita this is what we have here this is the staging area and if you see over here this is also the main command center for the hennepin county sheriff's office the sheriff will be talking to us in about 20 minutes giving us an update in a briefing as to what will happen this afternoon specifically how many divers will be in the water what they will be doing how safe or how insecure that stability is why they're over there on the water for about an hour we watched this morning starting at 8 15 as sheriff's officers from ramsey as well as hennepin came over here and filled up a big barge with dive tanks gear all kinds of dragging equipment to

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gear all kinds of dragging equipment to get ready to go out that barge that you just saw a minute ago bob talking about originated from right here but it was a long time before it got out so they're definitely waiting for the okay for someone to say it's okay to get in the water over there it's okay for you to be under that water looking for any people any recovery efforts that may be underway we want to point out the river is right behind us we did see a coast guard boat out there earlier men with binoculars on board looking at the shoreline we assume looking for any debris from this accident looking for anyone who may be floating along the shoreline as well that has since moved and we've only seen one or two boats move towards the bridge since then again we will get an update we're also told that we have some of the county commissioners coming here to give us more information as to what's going to happen this afternoon but venita they're going to move very slow because we have a severe safety issue as well i was told by ramsey county that their water patrol has at least 20 divers that will be heading into the water at some time or another 20 divers prepared to get on that barge this afternoon venita okay thank you chris keating reporting from the diving staging area we're going to go to the newsroom now and chat with chris o'connell about we this was about 45 minutes ago or so chris that we heard from president bush we've also been talking about representative oberstar and now the two senators proposing hundreds of millions of dollars in funding what can you tell us well a lot of information coming into the newsroom we are tracking the political and governmental response of this story that obviously has taken center stage here nationwide let's first start at the white house president bush just a short time ago addressing the media from the white house rose garden in his words he wants to ensure the bridge is repaired as quickly as possible and he says the federal government must respond robustly and quickly to this tragedy we also heard shortly from the u s transportation secretary who says we the federal government will be offering financial and technical support

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offering financial and technical support and she says immediately as of today literally as we speak five million dollars is being transferred to the cleanup and recovery for immediate response for this tragedy then we heard from minnesota's senatorial delegation senator amy klobuchar and senator norm coleman they are obviously on scene doing what they can and offering their support and senator coleman actually was working on a bill it was actually introduced in the senate to have a 15-year plan to inspect and assess every bridge in the united states and as bob mcaine was saying there is no doubt right now that that bill will be fast tracked now we're also following in the u.s house congressman jim oberstar he says he will introduce legislation to direct at least 250 million dollars to minnesota to help replace the bridge that collapsed that legislation is being introduced literally as we speak on the house floor in washington he says he will try to get

the bill through the house today oberstar says he'll also try to get the bill to the senate in time for senators to pass it before the august recess begins oberstar's always said he says this really shows the need to invest in nations transportation infrastructure and according to his office up to 30 percent of the nation's bridges that receive federal funding are structurally deficient to some degree at this point so a lot of information coming in a lot of political and governmental response and i guess senator amy klobuchar said it best that bridges in america should not fall and that is the sentiment being echoed throughout the political and governmental entities that here in minnesota and one last thing we do want to tell you about we were wondering if president bush was going to come to town we're not sure about that yet no inclination that he will but we do

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no inclination that he will but we do know that his wife first lady laura bush will be coming to town tomorrow it was a scheduled visit for the summer meetings of the republican national committee being held in minneapolis our kind of prep work for next year's republican national convention first lady laura bush was already scheduled to be at that meeting we can also tell you she'll be talking with a school group but she's also now changed her schedule she will be coming tomorrow to talk with some of the victims of this awful tragedy so a lot happening on the political and governmental side we're going to be tracking it throughout the day there is going to be a press conference for congressman jim oberstar very shortly we will carry that live for you actually coming up at about the noon hour we'll have that live from washington we'll be tracking the response here from the newsroom vanita so many political implications thank you so much chris o'connell reporting live from the newsroom again you're getting a live look from chopper five at the scene right now laura kaplan from memorial blood centers joins us now on the phone and laura it was nine o'clock that your phone lines were open we've been giving your number all night what kind of a response have you been getting about blood donation we've had a tremendous outpouring of support from the community and actually last night we had so many phone calls it crashed our phone system so we want to thank people for really coming forward to offer to donate hello laura what is the procedure someone sees these horrific scenes on tv and they just want to help and donating blood giving money talk about that donating blood is very easy we encourage people to go on our website and i understand it has slowed down a little bit but you can make an appointment online at www.mbc.org or you can call to make an appointment

[03:50:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=13800s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=13800s)

or you can call to make an appointment 888 give bld to schedule an appointment our donor centers both here in the metro area and the northland have extended hours today to accommodate people and our blood drives will also be extended for today we have noticed an outpouring of support not only from minnesotans but we've been getting calls from as far away as florida for people who have heard about the tragedy and want to support us and how do we know that this is going to directly affect the people the victims does it get right to the hospitals how does it work well the way that blood works is we collect blood and then we test it and then we send it out to the hospitals so actually yesterday's blood was immediately supplied to hcmc north memorial fairview south dale and children's hospitals we sent them all additional units of blood immediately so that blood had been collected a couple days ago after being tested and so um what we like to tell people is that we need them to come in and donate blood on a regular basis so we are prepared for emergencies such as this okay laura kaplan thank you so much for the work that you do that the people at memorial blood centers doing we appreciate all the people who've responded to the call to help and you know although it's a bad thing to have your phone lines go down it's amazing to see that response thank you thank you all right again as we look at this live picture we're just going to break away for a second and talk about the recovery efforts it looks like really weather-wise a very nice day i'm going to toss it over to patrick hammer who's going to give us an idea of what recovery efforts will encounter throughout this day patrick vanita today looks just fine of course yesterday evening we had storms on the approach that will not be the case today 78 right now in minneapolis 80 degrees in st paul it's going to be cooler today and certainly less humid so

[03:52:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=13921s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=13921s)

certainly less humid so we're not going to have to deal with any stifling heat or humidity out there in the recovering efforts you can see some of the cooler temperatures in northern minnesota 71 and having 74 degrees redwood falls satellite view clearly shows that the spotty rain that we did get yesterday the north metro picked up some heavier totals last night has moved on out of here we are going to see a nice day today and tomorrow but folks things are changing for the weekend it looks like what could be a fairly impressive system on the way for saturday and that means some much-needed rain for much of the state mainly the southern two-thirds of the state could see some rain again here's the nice day that we have for tomorrow and then here comes a warm front that could bring again some at least more widespread rains than we've seen lately we've seen certainly scattered showers and storms the last couple of fronts that have moved through this is beginning to appear like it could be more of a soaking rain possibly for saturday and thus cooler temperatures as well we'll show that to you in the seven day coming up high temperatures today with lots of sunshine mid 80's 87 in the twin cities 81 duluth 82 alexandria a little bit of a northwesterly wind 5-15 miles an hour so again quiet weather today and for the most part comfortable weather today as well 87 under mostly sunny skies for tonight clear 64. and then for tomorrow sunny early and then some increasing high clouds later in on your friday with a high of 86. seven-day forecast does feature that chance of rain that's becoming to look a little more likely now on saturday an isolated storm or two on sunday and then another chance of showers later monday and into tuesday so again a little wetter weather pattern setting up this weekend and into next week all right we're going to toss things off to my colleague flying in chopper5 bob mcnaity good morning bob hey patrick you know it's on the weather front before we leave you completely we got lucky last night in a sense that there was some weather moving through right about the

[03:54:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=14041s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=14041s)

weather moving through right about the time that all this was happening and fortunately he was able to skirt to the to the north of us that's certainly as we saw allowed uh emergency aircraft to get in um when they might not otherwise so that was that was a very good break very early on in the situation uh as we look back down at the at the debris the bridge itself now for the first time we're seeing that there are people actually walking around on that level of the ramp you can see the boat pulled up uh just as just literally seconds ago and by my count one two three four five six seven eight nine ten twelve fourteen men that uh that are up on that bridge right now that are that are taking a look this is the first time uh since uh well we've been up since about 4 30 this morning that we have seen any activity on the bridge it looks as if that one gentleman has blueprints out it's a little difficult to tell from up here but that would suggest that perhaps that these guys are maybe some of the engineers we've been hearing about from the ntsb uh the structural folks that are still trying to get a good gauge as to what pieces are are still remaining i mean obviously you have a structure that's quite strong when it's intact but now it is obviously not the case so we have a team of people that we saw walking around the perimeter of the bridge now up on the deck level itself again about 14 of them that came from that boat itself and we'll we'll pan a little bit to the to the rider pull out a little bit you can see there's a large barge that has a tremendous amount of equipment on there some boats some diving gear things like that we heard chris keating say earlier he's down in the area where that boat was uh that barge was launched from that uh that it's gonna be a probably this afternoon before anybody gets in the water because again we heard it from chief dolan he called it a terribly and tremendously dangerous scene still and and obviously that's what they're what they're taking into account but that barge has moved up and again for the first time this morning we're seeing uh the folks on the bridge itself uh taking a look at exactly what they have and uh and trying to go from there

[03:56:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=14161s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=14161s)

and uh and trying to go from there uh a couple of things that were said by some of the elected officials earlier on that that really hit home and it was chief dolan made the point and he didn't go into great uh specificity but it was clear that some of the officers some of the firefighters reached some of the victims that were pinned beneath the bridge who they couldn't get out there was no escaping and and it sounds quite obvious that the emergency personnel stayed with those folks until they passed that also probably goes back to again the the conversation we had earlier this morning about the death toll we've we've seen it be seven we've seen it be

nine officially it is now at four and again that is because those are the four people that have been recovered clearly the law enforcement folks know there are more people than that uh people that their officers stayed with until they died that are still trapped under the bridge but again those folks are not yet counted uh in the death toll for whatever that is worth again you're looking at uh people walking on the bridge they're clearly not going underneath or in the water so these uh these appear to be the structural types the engineers that are trying to basically give the all the green light if you will for um for other crews to get in under the debris and get closer by water by no stretch of the imagination well these folks determine this to be a safe seam a totally safe scene and it won't be but uh again as you heard chief dolan say it is time to make sure that nobody else gets hurt and that this process will be rather slow and deliberate uh in terms of the the overall scene out here i got to tell you that the area is very very quiet again we could probably pull out in and the traffic as we've been talking about uh throughout the morning has been very light in downtown minneapolis the bridges uh not in bad shape at all stone arch bridge the hennepin avenue bridge okay we're losing our signal a little bit from bob mcnaaney but we want to thank him for giving us an update on what's going on at the scene

[03:58:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=14280s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=14280s)

update on what's going on at the scene i'd like to show you some video that we've been showing all morning it was broadcast on cnn it's surveillance video of the actual bridge collapse rusty gatenby is here with me and just reacting to it when you see this in slow motion and actually see it happen to imagine that was toward the end of the afternoon rush hour one of the the survivors saying uh bumper to bumper at that time going 15 miles per hour so there has to be at least 50 vehicles is what we're guessing right now yes that's what that's what the police chief tim dolan was saying that he was estimating 50 vehicles on that bridge at the time when you see this collapse you can see the water coming up smoke and then after this subsides a little there were vehicles on fire a semi was on fire a van was on fire but just see it there and bit by bit as it's going and this is in slow motion keep in mind this was just a few seconds that this took place frankly i'm just amazed at the number of people that were able to survive this catastrophic collapse and that that school bus was so close to being just a horrendous tragedy for them and all the other folks that were so close to losing their life during that collapse but somehow survived is just amazing it is amazing and it is that bright spot the 60 kids who were able to make it out of this that was just an incredible scene yesterday well you know a lot of people are turning to their faith at a time like this the archdiocese of saint paul and minneapolis have scheduled prayer services today at noon that's coming up here in about an hour the minneapolis service will be at st olive catholic church in saint paul go to the cathedral of saint paul in light of the bridge collapse the minnesota twins have postponed this afternoon's game versus kansas city the team was also scheduled to break ground on the new twins ballpark in downtown minneapolis later today those events have been canceled for today and will be rescheduled at a later date along with today's game now we're going to bring back in rusty gatenby and he can give us an idea of the traffic situation you know we followed it all morning and to everyone's surprise rusty you know really wasn't that bad

[04:00:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=14401s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=14401s)

really wasn't that bad it seems like a lot of folks found a way to avoid minneapolis altogether those folks who did travel north uh into town and south into town there was a detour and we can map it out for you this is the detour the main detour that we have set up or that mndot has set up uh there you see it 280 to 94 and then back up to 694 uh right now the flow remains very nice in and around downtown minneapolis light levels of traffic on 35w as you approach the detour from both directions traffic pulse has a has it mapped out i believe and there you can see lots of green out there so that does mean we are moving right along and uh the big delays this morning actually were on interstate 94. we had a couple of fender benders that jam things up there was a bit of a slowdown 694 to 35 evo over on the st paul's side and they do say you know depending on where you're going to go you may not want to use 280 maybe you want to use hybrid 100 or 169 or 694 over to 35e but really for the most part we had a very nice rush hour this morning all things considering now the big story will be what happens well this afternoon tomorrow the days and weeks ahead with that major interstate collapse this is 5 eyewitness news midday good morning everyone it is now 11 o'clock i'm benita

sucker we continue our live breaking news coverage of this tragedy 35 w bridge collapsing now we've been on air nonstop since this tragedy happened happened at 605 during the evening rush hour yesterday we have been on the air ever since it happened giving you live pictures of the scene now we want to go to a news conference right now at the dive staging area and i want to see if it's begun yet let's go to that news conference if we're able to or at least talk to chris keating chris keating has that news conference started yet not yet vanita we're waiting for it to

04:02:00 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=14520s>)

not yet vanita we're waiting for it to start we expect it to start at 11 o'clock so we're just one or two minutes late and we haven't seen any sign yet of the hennepin county sheriff being here but hennepin county is in control of the scene and they will be talking to us about what's going to go on here as you can see behind me all of the trucks and campers so forth this is the main command center for the dimes teams and the boats we saw a barge earlier this eve this morning about 10 15 load up with divers you saw that barge earlier if you're watching us it has divers and sheriff's officers on it we are told as many as 20 divers on board possibly ready to go in the water at a moment's notice they were waiting this morning for the okay to get in by that structure there was some concern that that structure was not prepared that they couldn't go into the water we want to answer a lot of questions when those divers get in mainly how many cars are underneath the water how many cars underneath that bridge and how many people will they have to recover we've also seen on the water you can see the river just behind me a coast guard boat earlier they were trolling looking for along the shoreline with binoculars for any signs of debris or anyone who possibly they could recover here but again we are waiting for this news conference to start we should have some answers in just a few minutes as to how many people will be going in the water and what kind of problems they may have when they get out to that scene because as you know it is a very dangerous scene for anybody in the water there whether you're in boat or in a wetsuit today vanita okay chris we're going to come back to you as soon as that news conference starts i just want to update people on some new information this this is video of uh that we've been showing you this morning of the collapse of the bridge you can see it in slow motion here you can see that woman there but i'm wondering if we can rewind and actually see the collapse of the bridge well let me at least update you here on some new information i have um it's surrounding this collapse okay i'm going to send it over to ryan kibby he is covering a different angle of the story ryan what can you tell us well vanita the woman that you just saw there her name was lynn lubin she's a 44 year old highland park native now she tells me

04:04:00 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=14640s>)

highland park native now she tells me that she would have died on that bridge her eyewitness account had she left just a minute or two earlier now she was on the phone with 911 operators just seconds after the bridge collapsed and i looked up in the air and i saw the 35w bridge coming down and i could hear all the screams and i saw like the kids on the bus holding their seats up holding onto their seats right in front of them and uh then it was down and uh immediately i the bridge was laying on the road in front of me like five cars in front a couple cars in front of me did u-turns and left and they just left and they were probably in shock because the bridge fell down in front of them a couple guys got the car and started running towards the bridge to help the kids and stuff and i got on 9-1-1 and called immediately and i didn't know what bridge it was and i just got on the phone and i was calling people and crying and other people came down the river and they were crying because there wasn't anything you could do and there was it was pretty devastating did you see the bridge actually collapse did you see the after effect of it or actually it go down i saw it go down because i heard it it was very very loud it just it it clacked over and over this loud sound i'd never heard and it made me look up and i saw it coming down out of the sky and the people on there screaming that was the most noise it was making is the people screaming and then it was silence you heard the screams yes the kids on the bus and hold i even saw them holding onto the front of their seats and you got down there what was you said you saw the kids you went actually down there and you could see that it was right in front of me yeah the kids were getting off the bus immediately those adults on that bus got those kids off that bus so quick they were so very good about that the chaperones they should be people don't usually move that fast

and then the guys in the car in front of me were lifting them and taking them off the bridge if you can best describe that 9-1-1 call what kind of your initial if you can think back what exactly did you say i was pretty upset i said the bridge fell into the water and there's people

[04:06:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=14760s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=14760s)

fell into the water and there's people hurt and there's cars sinking in the river and you need to get people down here this is huge and she said what bridge i said i don't know what bridge it is what did the actual bridge look like and sound like as it was going down i've never heard that sound i would equate it to maybe something like a train or maybe a tornado or something it was just this loud it was rhythmic sound happening and i don't even know i think when i first glanced at it it wasn't even moving and it moved right in front of my eyes it just came right down it just right in front of me and that's when the screaming half happened and i saw when you uh you were calling the kids you were almost in tears can you remember how you felt at that moment i could feel i just couldn't believe anything like that could ever happen it's unfathomable that you know that doesn't happen i mean i stood there looked at i thought this didn't just happen and then how quiet it was with no movement it seemed like it didn't happen like i was watching something days later it wasn't even there last night after it happened and i knew i couldn't go in the river and save people i just prayed for everyone who was out there in the river and on the bridges stuck in their cars i just prayed for all the people i know that i heard they're asking for blood and people need they need blood and so that's a good thing for people to do today keep the families in their prayers and go give blood the words of lynn lubin a highland park native an eyewitness account detailing as best she can the moments after the bridge collapsed she said you could actually hear the screams of the children on that bus during her 9-1-1 phone call she is grateful and amazed that all of the kids on the bus survived as we all are live in the newsroom ryan kibby five eyewitness news absolutely ryan boyd what an emotional woman and we appreciate her sharing her story with us i do want to update you though as far as the death toll is concerned all night last night we were saying seven officials have dropped that down to four we do expect that death toll to increase but

[04:08:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=14880s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=14880s)

but due to the way they determine uh how they report death the number of dead they have dropped that down to four people dead we had been reporting six people injured 60 people injured we're now saying 79 people have been injured and as many as 30 people could be missing that fact is according to chief tim dolan minneapolis police chief tim dolan the white house says an inspection two years ago found structural deficiencies in the bridge white house press secretary tony snow says the bridge rated only a 50 on a scale of 120 for structural stability but that doesn't mean there was a risk of failure president bush spoke this morning after meeting with his cabinet about the collapse we talked about the fact that the bridge collapsed and that uh we in the federal government must respond and respond robustly to help the people there not only recover but to make sure that lifeline of activity that bridge gets rebuilt as quickly as possible first lady laura bush will be in the twin cities tomorrow to console victims families it was a pre-scheduled visit but she's going to be changing her itinerary so she can meet with the families all right we want to show you surveillance video you saw that woman earlier in part of that surveillance video but this is the actual collapse of the bridge this is video that was aired on cnn this video may be disturbing to some viewers it was taken from a surveillance camera near the site and it is in slow motion you can see that puff of smoke water debris as it collapsed this is in slow motion keep in mind so this happened just in a few seconds but you can make out the cars and the different vehicles on there and and where they are when that bridge collapse again you can see that puff of smoke and debris coming up and we will be showing this and we are certain that structural engineers will be analyzing this as they look for a cause to what happened last night wisconsin governor jim doyle is offering wisconsin's help in dealing with the

[04:10:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=15000s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=15000s)

wisconsin's help in dealing with the tragedy wisconsin emergency management officials have repeatedly been in touch with officials here in minnesota wisconsin state troopers are stationed near hudson to coordinate additional assistance if any is needed all morning long we've been trying to gauge the impact that this would have on traffic when you're talking about the most traveled bridge in the state of minnesota that's going to have a huge we're having a news conference right now actually before we go to traffic let's head over to chris keating this news conference is going out the dive staging area in connection with the bridge collapse here we operate under a unified command system so recovery operations on land are being handled by minneapolis fire department within the water itself the hennepin county sheriff's office we're doing this in conjunction with a number of other agencies under mutual aid anoka county sheriff's office ramsey county sheriff's office a number of other sheriff's officers across the state have provided us additional resources hennepin county sheriff's office has approximately 15 boats on scene a dozen more divers on scene at about 10 45 this morning about 25-30 minutes ago we commenced recovery operations on the river that's significant in two parts one we were waiting for the okay from structural engineers city county state federal local to take a look at the remaining structure of the bridge as well as what's standing and what's in the water before we send our emergency workers back into the water they are still working on that piece of it however between the two spans a bridge the north and southbound lanes of the collapsed bridge is an area where there are at least four vehicles submerged we are sending dive teams out there now to take a look at those four vehicles that were located and scanned using high tech equipment to the sheriff's office that being side scanned sonar recovery operations rescue operations ended about midnight last night as you know for those of you

[04:12:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=15121s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=15121s)

last night as you know for those of you that were here during the night we provided security on the river in terms of the perimeter and staged additional logistics additional logistics such as we moved in barges with heavy equipment for rescue for recovery operations that being the cranes the stuff you've seen moving what is up river we are about an eighth to a quarter mile down river from the collapsed bridge this site is generally known as university of minnesota river flats you're just down below the university of minnesota hospital this is where recovery operations for the river will continue for days if not longer we are planning at least a three four five six seven day extension whatever it takes to process this scene police hennepin county sheriff's office law enforcement authorities federal we consider this a crime scene until we know what exactly happened to cause the bridge collapse you know i'm not going to get into injuries fatalities some of the questions that have been answered earlier my role the role the sheriff's office is water recovery operations as soon as we get an okay to commence further recovery operations closer to the structure itself we will do that we'll stay staged and poised here many things will happen here over the next several hours throughout the day throughout the evening the coming days i think you know i'm open for questions i've got a number of people here from the hennepin county sheriff's office as well as the other agencies and i think we're still meeting at noon over by the stone arch bridge where we met earlier this morning it's about sixth in maine chief dolan myself chief clack from minneapolis fire will be talking about another joint operational briefing to the media what are some concerns your divers have going in around a structure that's in the water and very unstable yeah well as you know i mean the structure itself as you can see or have

[04:14:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=15240s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=15240s)

structure itself as you can see or have seen is very unstable there's parts of the structure that's still standing there's parts of the structure that are submerged parts of the structure that are half submerged you've got currents you've got weather conditions we took our divers out last night about midnight as we commenced operations for the evening because of those these folks are highly trained they're professionals in what they do we're only using law enforcement personnel to commence the dive and recovery operations at this point the divers who went in at 10 45 this morning how many of them went in the water and how close exactly could they get to the bridge were they allowed to go you know we've got approximately 15 divers on scene here we've got a number of other divers and resources available to us we'll be rotating them throughout the day as needs and resources dictate in terms of how close again if you can imagine you are down river from

the bridge about an eighth to a quarter mile where these four vehicles are that they've begun or commenced recovery efforts essentially between the two spans of bridge and north and the southbound lanes we've identified at least four vehicles totally submerged there and that's what they're working on through the lock and dam system it's about nine feet water depth at the bridge itself we're able to lower it to about seven feet which i was down there yesterday right on scene in the water on the lock and dam side it causes a number of the vehicles to become not submerged but rather half and half and you can see a lot more you know we have not that is what the divers will be doing this morning if in fact there are anybody inside the vehicle again this is a recovery operation a crime scene things will be slow and deliberate throughout the rest of the morning throughout the day throughout the coming days as we process as a crime scene and again protect the

[04:16:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=15360s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=15360s)

as a crime scene and again protect the emergency workers who are on the scene here are you searching today when you say and how are you prioritizing what you search for today i think our plan of action at this point has been that we're going to be working downstream of the bridge so you know we are trying to identify what's i don't know about about grid piece but we're working downstream when the downstream piece is complete we will move upstream meaning the other side of the bridge or what i call the lock and dam side that may be in the coming days or later depending how long this part takes we're not assuming anything at this point again you know number of folks last night other elected officials and others gave some numbers i'm not going to confirm those numbers we know we have fatalities we know we had a number of injuries hennepin county medical examiner's office releases the information on fatality senator county medical center had a briefing this morning i believe they have another one scheduled for this afternoon about injuries themselves i ask you know the public has been calling it's been an immense effort in terms of state local federal workers law enforcement firefighters we train for these types of events how tragic as they are we operate under this unified command system we had first responders here from all over the state up until about 10 o'clock last night when we canceled a statewide response um and today we're working with our local resources you know at this point there is no other command center north of the bridge in terms of water recovery all water recovery efforts will happen out of this site for now when we start working on the the north side of the upper dam i think we will move correct we will

[04:18:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=15481s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=15481s)

i think we will move correct we will move it further north probably up to a boom island but again you know we work one section at a time slowly deliberately thoroughly and then move on from there like an eighth of a mile a quarter of a mile in this grid the area that we're apparently conducting probably probably within 100 feet of the obstruction but 100 feet of the structure i'm sorry why downstream versus upstream that's the way water goes but used to say that vapors didn't fall in the upstream so well we know we have vehicles on the upstream side we have uh check those vehicles the best we can at this point again this is a recovery operation is that how many you know are submerged or is that just the no we know there are additional vehicles submerged on the upstream side as well i don't have an exact number and that's one of the things the divers are doing with the sonar is pinpointing what's in the water the structure using gps coordinates in terms of the crime scene in terms of documenting the scene itself number on the downstream side that you know because you were mentioning four core vehicles that you were dealing with correct we there are four vehicles that we are taking a look at right now or beginning this morning and this afternoon from there we know there are other vehicles in the water either submerged or have submerged those four i can get to safely and securely with our rescue workers until the structural engineers tell me that it's safe enough to go closer to the structure that's still you know standing or wrecked with those four vehicles we are right now yeah we're going to use a number of different efforts investigators from minneapolis police federal authorities hennepin county sheriff's office detectives are working with folks at the hospital the families at the holiday in metrodome to

[04:20:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=15600s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=15600s)

to try and link up vehicles with victims that we've either spoken to or people that are still unaccounted for no we've asked the public's help in doing the three things really a number of and i talked about this a little bit earlier and gets sidetracked we've asked the public's help in three ways one through you the media has been very gracious and generous and thank you for doing that the red cross has asked in his dire need of blood donations so local hospitals memorial blood bank give blood secondly the family recovery and assistance center over at the holiday inn metrodome please advertise that number tell people how to get there i visited late last night i'm going back over there in a little bit to meet with the families they're very concerned and i think the third piece is is continue to tell people you know that this is this is a crime scene and we ask the general public not to come down here we don't have much in terms of traffic flow it's chaotic at best we have emergency workers equipment that needs to come and go and that's the best way that really the public can help us at this point here in this general area last night did divers actually die yesterday afternoon yeah yesterday evening again the collapse happened about 6 p.m we ended operations about midnight we did have people in the water up until that time mostly using sonar and checking what we could safely check is it correct that no bodies were actually recovered submerged i can't answer that question at this point you can't answer because is there any way we don't know you know we are working on it i don't make any promises it depends what happens later part of this afternoon catherine janasek will be your point of contact she's the sheriff's office public information officer how long will your divers be in there right now checking out those four cars how long does something like this take as long as it takes you know they're going to be tedious they're going to be thorough they're going to document the

[04:22:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=15720s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=15720s)

thorough they're going to document the scene and where they find things and i wish i'd give you an estimate but i can't how long has each driver down i'm sorry how long is each driver down before they get released it's really dependent upon the individual and a lot of different conditions how long they are able to function on a tank and rotate out you've been listening to hennepin county sheriff rich stanek talking about the recovery efforts his angle on this is working with the divers the dive teams that will be recovering the bodies in the wreckage from that site he didn't really want to address issues related to fatalities that type of thing how many people how many cars he said that is up to other agencies who have addressed that in other news conferences he was more focused on the recovery efforts at this point now throughout the morning we were just wondering what it was going to be like traffic wise this is a bridge that is traveled on by 100 000 plus cars daily and wondering what kind of an effect it would have on other roadways side streets interstates rusty gatenby has been following it for us and there have been a lot of surprises this morning that was one of the big unknowns how would twin cities commuters handle this first morning rush hour after that terrible bridge collapse wealth pretty well actually they found a way to avoid minneapolis it seems especially 35w as you approach that bridge collapse zone and here's a live shot of the live flow map from traffic pulse green out there indicating the drive right now in good shape 94 eastbound you see a nice flow there with speeds at 46 miles per hour from 394 to 280 and west 94 moving at 50 miles per hour let's go live to 35 w southbound you can see they do have the digital sign up there letting you know that it is shut down at stinson here's what 35w looks like at stinson you can see they've got the barricades up and they're now emergency vehicles moving into position this morning

[04:24:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=15840s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=15840s)

into position this morning uh here's that eerie shot from 35 w in washington of the bridge and again you can see some workers out there this is one of the vehicles that has been there since the collapse right on the edge of where that bridge collapsed but but the flow has been good all through the morning rush hour there's the view 94 at 280 and 280 is considered to be the main detour uh route they've pretty much converted 280 to a freeway we have midway on our uh excuse me we have 280 on our midway skycam that is the midway stretch right there in the middle of your screen you can see it's moving along without delay they've converted it to a freeway by having the stop and go traffic lights lit up green you'll have no access to broadway or county road b because they want you to keep moving and again folks if you if depending where you need to go there is a map of that detour 280 to 94 to 694 they're saying hey you may even want to consider 35e in st

paul which got a little crowded this morning not too unusual or highway 100 or even 169 you've covered traffic here for 20 plus years you know this is going to be an issue i mean eventually here it's going to be an issue and as the governor said to rebuild that bridge this is a year from now two years from now this could still be an issue and eventually those traffic headaches will come and we'll have to give advice more advice on where to go detours it'll be interesting to see i'm guessing 280 is somehow going to be expanded in the next several months it would have to be to handle that flow all right thanks rusty crews from progressive contractors oh first we want to show you pictures viewers have been sending us all night long give you a different perspective and we try to give you every different angle possible mark lacroix sent us these pictures and this is a wide shot of the bridge and he got a tighter shot here you can just see the people still standing there right after it happened the cars in their same places and what's been amazing about the the helicopter shots we've been getting even uh as of late these cars are still in the same spots nothing has been touched they've left it

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nothing has been touched they've left it there now crews from progressive contractors based in st michael were working on the bridge last night when it collapsed we checked osha records and found nine safety violations over the past 10 years three workers were hospitalized they've confirmed that one worker is still missing right now progressive contractors says all survivors are shaken up 18 people were working yesterday the crews were about to pour the final two inches of concrete surface but before they could start pouring the bridge pouring it the bridge collapsed they were not doing any work on the steel structure that supports the concrete deck and once again 18 workers on the scene one is missing three were hospitalized the rest treated at the scene i want to add a couple of things here i have a statement from tom salone he's the vice president of the bridge division of progressive contractors and quickly he says last evening our bridge repair crew of 18 workers was performing routine resurfacing work they were preparing to pour the final two inches of concrete surface now he has thoughts and prayers for the family and everyone that's been affected but he goes on to say this was a steel structure that supported a concrete deck we did not do any work on the steel structure as we have done successfully many times all over the midwest we simply repaired the concrete deck by removing deteriorated concrete patching and resurfacing and he goes on to say the traveling public relies on the structural integrity of public bridges now along with everyone else he and the people with progressive look forward to some answers on why this happened so obviously saying that they were not part of the steel structure part of it they were doing the support of the concrete deck tom houser has been out on the scene all morning he talked with senator norm coleman just a short time ago goldman was able to take a tour of the damage today of the debris really what is left of that bridge and he joins me now to talk a little bit about this what were your emotions when you saw this in person you saw it on tv last night you saw it in person today i saw it on tv we flew over it on the way but then when you get there and you see that school bus and and you

[04:28:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=16080s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=16080s)

and you see that school bus and and you realize 60 you know young kids could have lost their lives when you see the cars that obviously in the river and you realize there's so many it takes your breath away it's really it's soul-wrenching as to as to what happened and also the enormity of it that the the tangled steel you know what kind of force it would take to to do that so sadness uh but then some some joy in in some of the miracle stories that happened like the fact those 60 kids all survived which is uh probably a miracle senator klobuchar put it very starkly she said a bridge just shouldn't fall down in america why did this happen i don't you don't know technically why it happened but how could this happen and that is the question that we have to answer we have to answer the question as to why this bridge fell down when bridges in america shouldn't fall down we have general mark rosenker who is the chairman of the national transportation safety board he flew in in the middle of the night to get here his team came here even earlier than that we will have the answer to that tom is going to take a while because this hasn't happened hasn't happened since the 1980s and in that instance they found out that some sort of a bolt was sheared at a kind of a point and it caused the collapse but we have to have the answer to that because there are bridges in america that need repair

we don't think that they're in danger of falling down but this one has and we have to make sure that another one doesn't and clearly people are going to have that in the back of their minds when they drive over old bridges uh really anywhere in the country what can be done about this if the facts are true that it's 40 to 50 percent of them are substandard in some way well again as you heard the head of the uh department transportation talk about that when she said substandard it doesn't mean that they're in danger she was very clear it simply means that we have to have this at least we don't think so but we saw what happened here right and i think what we have to do is is accelerate and intensify the inspection process that we've had particularly for those bridges that fit into this category and i would hope that this happens not just in minnesota because minnesota

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just in minnesota because minnesota apparently has what three percent of the bridges fall in this category uh around the country the standard maybe or the number may be 40 percent so i would hope that the rest of the country takes a look at what happened here and changes what they do accordingly finally i know you're hoping this is an anomaly and not something that's going to become more common because our infrastructure really the interstate highway system is really coming into maturity some would even say old age could this become something that becomes uh unfortunately more common tom i introduced the bill yesterday before the news of this by by chance and i introduced it with two former governors george voinovich from ohio former mayor two by the way of cleveland tom carper from delaware former governor and senator klobuchar has joined me calling for congress to establish a commission and over the next 18 months examine this very question look at what's happening with our infrastructure highways bridges and come back with a detailed report that says these are the needs and this is how we're going to address the needs five year 10-year 15-year put a price tag on it and then challenge your elected representatives to do what has to be done to make sure that we are safe right now we don't have the answer to that question again i introduced that and had it literally introduced yesterday before this i i think and in fact i can tell you now i'm very confident that bill's going to be hotline meaning it's going to go through very quickly i think my colleagues across the country understand that we have to take stock of of the state of our infrastructure make sure we're prepared to fix it all right senator norm coleman thanks for taking the time with us today i know you're very busy that was senator norm coleman talking about the need we have to do something about the infrastructure in this country that some say is crumbling in its old age again that was norm coleman's take on what happened the tragedy here in minneapolis last night okay thank you tom of course you know this brings to mind the issue the need for money and state officials are leaning heavily on senators coleman and klobuchar and our representatives to get the federal money here into this state to work on this situation chris o'connell is in the newsroom

[04:32:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=16320s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNOZSIWxC0&t=16320s)

o'connell is in the newsroom representative jim oberstar the chairman of the transportation committee is asking for 250 million yeah that is really the focus right now money to repair this is something that is quite rare partisan politics kind of taken a back seat in really what has become the lead story around the country we're going to recap some of the political response and we've heard it from federal state and local authorities from president bush all the way down to the mayor of minneapolis president bush addressing the press in the white house rose garden saying the federal government must respond robustly to fix this immediately and he authorized immediately along with the u s secretary of transportation mary peters an immediate five million dollars to be instituted today to start repairs and recovery efforts but obviously a lot more is going to be needed after that we heard from governor tim pawlenty who immediately ordered immediate inspection of all bridges that have a design like this all over the state of minnesota and that could be a lot of bridges and immediate inspection

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